

#### Peres lauds Arafat, sparks uproar

TEL AVIV (AP) - Foreign Minister Shimon Peres caused a furor in parliament on Wednesday when he lauded Yasser Arafat as an parliament on Wednesday when he lauded Yasser Arafat as an unfairly maligned peace partner who is risking his life in negotiating with Israel. "Attack Arafat all you want," Mr. Peres told right-wing legislators. "I sat days and nights across from him... there is a difference when you describe Arafat through hearsay and images and when you see this man, whose life is in danger." Over loud protests, an emotional Peres continued: "His life is in danger because he decided to end the killing." Hardline Palestinian groups have threatened to assassinate Mr. Arafat for putsuing peace with the Jewish state. Yehoshua Matza of the right-wing Likud shouted to Mr. Peres: "You should be ashamed and condemned. You are sorry for him?" Mr. Peres shot back: "There were lews who also were involved him?" Mr. Peres shot back: "There were Jews who also were involved in terror (and) I don't judge them by their past. I want Arafat to be a partner who can lead his people to peace. We need to help this partner. We must listen to their needs." Mr. Peres' support for the man — who until the Sept. 13 agreement was signed was almost universally maligned in Israel — was unusual.

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#### King hosts iftar for tribal leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday hosted at Basman Palace an iftar in honour of Jordanian tribal leaders. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Huschief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the Fig. King's Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors and senior Royal
Court officials. The King and the audience performed Maghreb prayers together.

#### Jordan will not screen Schindler

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AMMAN (R) — Jordan may not allow cinemas to screen the film "Schindler's List" in the tense atmosphere created by the Hebron massacre, officials said Wednesday. But pirate copies of the new movie, directed by American Steven Spielberg — a smash hit around the world — are already available at video shops in Amman. Schindler, a German businessman motivated by altruism, self-interest or both depending on one's point of view, saved 1,200 Jewish factory workers from death in World War II. 'Until now, we have not received any request from any movie house to stage it here," said a member of Jordan's committee that authorises the screening of new films. "But if it is totally designed to show sympathy to the Jews, we will not allow it in because of the current situation after the Hebron massacre, "Install Renters. "How can we expect our people to show symmathy to the Jews if the Jews are not showing any sympathy to the Arabs," he asked.

#### Arafat appeals to Hamas to unite

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has appealed to Hamas, his organisation's main rival, to join in a campaign to disarm Jewish settlers and solve the settlements issue with Israel after the Hebron massacre. He made his appeal in a letter to the Islamic Resistance Movement's head, Mousa Abu Marzonk, to end longstanding divisions. Hamas gave Reuters a copy of the letter. "It's the bour of unity and solidarity and uniting of ranks and not difference and division," Mr. Arafat said, responding to a call by Mr. Abu Marzouk for Mr. Arafat to halt peace talks with the Jewish state. "This unity is most needed when we are fighting one of our fiercest battles to find a radical and comprehensive solution to the settlements and the disarming of settlers and securing international protection to our people," Mr. Arafat said. The Hamas leader had told Mr. Arafat he was ready to cooperate fully with you if you wash your hands of the surrender talks ... and declare that resistance alone is the only path to regain Palestine." Mr. Abu Marzouk sent his letter to Mr. Arafat after last Friday's Hebton massacre.

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#### Egyptian students continue protests

CAIRO (R) - Egyptian police fired teargas at students protesting for a fifth day on Wednesday against Friday's massacre in Hebron, witnesses said. They said police acted after about 800 students at 'Ain Shams University broke open the university gate and poured into the street condeuning the killing and shouting Palestine is Arab." Police then climbed onto a building overlooking the campus and fired more tear-gas at students who threw rocks in return. At least 10 police trucks were stationed outside the university and anti-riot police were on standby a few metres away, the witnesses said. There was no unmediate information about any casualties.

# 2 killed in Jericho as Palestinian fury rises

Israel disarms a few hardline settlers

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (AP) — Two Palestinian teenagers were killed by Israeli troops Wednesday as the violence triggered by the Hebron mosque massacre exploded in this normally quiet West Bank town despite Israeli efforts to curb the bloodletting.

Security authorities disarmed some extremist Jewish settlers in the occupied territories and banned them from Palestinian areas.

That was a radical move for the Israelis. But it is not likely to placate Palestinians demanding the closure of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and international protection. Militant Palestinians called for revenge attacks.

One of the teenagers was killed by army gunfire in Jericho, which Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat plans to make his headquarters under a peace accord with Israel that provides for limited autonomy in the Jericho region and the Gaza Strip.

Chanting "revenge revenge" his family grabbed the body from an ambulance. They wrapped it in a Palestinian flag and carried it through the rubble-strewn streets to a cemetery for burial as hundreds of angry Arabs cried. "The start of killing the pigs has begun." The trouble flared when 400 Palestinians, waving black flags, protested the mosque killings, stoning army vehicles and a police station. Troops on rooftops opened fire at youths using slingshots.

The marchers called for Jews to be killed. One placard read: You will not live on our land. You will not fly in our sky.' Among the score of injured was Saeb Erakat, head of the PLO's negotiating team, who was slightly wounded in the

A 17-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by soldiers in Hebron. Clashes erupted when the military lifted a six-day-old curfew for two hours to allow people to shop, hospital offi-cials reported. Thirty-three Arabs were injured.

At least 13 Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in scattered stone-throwing clashes with troops in Gaza, hospitals reported.

Wednesday's fatalities raised the death toll since Friday to at least 66, including at least 39 men and boys killed in the Hebron mosque Friday by a Jewish gunman. All but three of those killed

were Palestinian, More than 400 have been wounded. Officials at Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv said an eight-year-old Gaza girl shot in the head by troops Feb. 2 three weeks before the mosque

Clinton calls on Palestinians

massacre — died of her wounds Wednesday.

The Gaza-based Hamas movement called for all out revenge, heightening Israeli unease amid military warnings that Arab reprisal attacks are

The government put its embassies and citizens abroad on alert. Mr. Rabin's adviser, Yigal Pressler, urged Israelis with gun permits to carry their weapons at all times.

Hamas called for a "holy liberation war" against Israel and exhorted the one million Arabs living in Israel to take revenge for the Feb. 25 mas-

"We call on our brothers" in Israel to "avenge the ugly massacre and let the gun and machine-gun speak. Let the 25th of every month be a day of escalation on which Israeli targets are attacked everywhere," Hamas said in leaflets distributed Wednesday.

It appealed to the two million Palestinians in the occupied territories to wage "an armed revolution that can reach Israel buses and Israelipopulated areas inside Israel because our blood is not cheaper than theirs."

Mr. Arafat's Fatch faction in Hebron issued leaflets saying its activists will "resume attacks against the Zionist enemy with all their strength.



## Jordan backs call for dismantling settlements, disarming settlers

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan believes that the only way to ensure the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories is through the removal of the settlements in the occupied territories, especially in high-tension areas such as Hebron and Jerusalem, a senior official told the Jordan Times Wednesday ..

The Kingdom also wants to see a more active role for the United Nations in the Middle East peace negotiations as well as in guaranteeing the protection of Palestinian citizens.

"Jordan's declared position is that Palestinians in the occupied territories have to be protected," said the official, who asked he remain anonymous.

Jordan, along with its Arab partners to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, pulled out of the Washington-based bilateral talks early in protest against the massacre of 60 worshippers in Hebron last week.

The PLO has placed several conditions on the resumption

of negotiations, including the dismantling of settlements especially in Hebron and the Gaza Strip, move the issue of settlements from final-status negotiations to the current negotiations, disarm settlers and increase the number of Palestinian policemen.

Israel has already freed around 1,000 Palestinian detainees and announced it was ready to disarm 100 settlers. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, according to reports, was willing to accept international observers to supervise the transfer of power from Israel to Palestinians, possibly dismantle particularly troubleon radical Jewish settlers and increase the size of the Palesti-

nian police forces. "We believe that the best security arrangements are that settlements are dismantled Hebron, the official said.

especially in Jerusalem and He said that these two areas are especially important because "of their historic value

and the close contact between

fundamentalist settlers and

Foreign Minister Carlos

Papoulias arrived here late

Wednesday on a two-day visit

during which he is expected to

be received by His Majesty

King Hussein and other offi-

cials for talks on the Middle

East peace process and bilater-

In arrival comments, Mr.

Papoulias, who occupies the

rotating presidency of the European Union (EU) Council

of Ministers said he was car-

rying a message from Greek prime Minister George Papan-

Mr. Papoulias, who arrived

here from Tunis after talks

with Palestinian leader Yasser

Arafat, is on a Middle East

dreou to King Hussein.

al relations.

"Jordan also calls for U.N. participation in negotiations," the official said.

But most importantly, the official said the issue of settlements should be moved forward to the current Arab-Israeli negotiations instead of relegating the sensitive debate to final-status negotiations.

"Jordan always believed that the delaying of this issue will have dangerous ramifications," the official said.

The official said that the head of the PLO political department, Farouk Khaddoumi. will not visit Amman as previously scheduled and has instead gone to New York to discuss the proposed U.N. resolution on the Hebron mas-

U.S. and Palestinian diplomats had been holding negotiations at the U.N. headquarters in New York to work out disagreements on wording and reach a final draft for a U.N. Security resolution condemning the Hebron massacre.

### **Prince** Hassan urges youth to serve national objectives

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged members of the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) to translate the slogans of the Great Arab Revolt into action. "Slogans are not enough.

The Youth should set a good example in their behaviour and their work and serve as a model for others in serving their nation," Prince Hassan

"This can be done through field work and through contributions in various fields "Prince Hassan said at a meeting Tuesday with AYF members held after an iftar.

"We want the AYF to contribute towards utilising the potential power of the country's youth and to plant the seeds of hope in the hearts of people, urging them to get involved in practical programmes benefiting their nation," added the Crown Prince.

When the AYF was founded in 1982, I stressed that its aim was to help build up a better future for the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation," Prince Hassan recalled.

"We do not want the AYF to serve as a lobby seeking favouritism for its members to attain positions, but rather to serve as a workshop," with the youth continuously working to serve national interest," said Prince Hassan.

By undertaking the real tasks, the AYF will highlight Jordan's real role and reflect its good image to the outside world at a time when the counfreedom, human rights political pluralism and democracy, he

He urged the youth to deal with local issues and embark on practical programmes to find solutions for these prob-

Present at the iftar and the lecture were Cabinet members. Presidents of Jordanian Universities and other offi-

# not to abandon peace talks

Arafat sends Shaath to U.S. amid Israeli, PLO criticism of Washington Israel, Clinton administration

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - President Bill Clinton urged Palestinians on Wednesday not to abandon Middle East peace talks over the Hebron massacre, saying to reject negotiations would "hand a victory to the extremists."

Mr. Clinton told reporters he believes the Palestinians want to rejoin the talks and added, "I'm not resigned to the fact that it won't happen." Mr. Clintosn said Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat had said he would join the talks in Washington but that he is under much pressure at home not to do so. "The only thing I would say

to the Palestinians who are pressuring Mr. Arafat not to resume talks is that that is the surest way to hand a victory to the madman who killed all the Palestinians in the mosque. Why should they do something that would hand a victory to the extremists on both sides?" he said.

Last week's massacre in Hebron by a gun-wielding Jewish extremist has stalled the Middle East peace process, and sparked clashes in the Israelioccupied territories. Mr. Arafat told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday that an international force was needed to protect Palestinians and in the occupied terri-

Mr. Clinton said he had spoken to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and hoped to talk to King Hussein later

nian demands before agreeing

to reopen negotiations with

Wednesday to discuss ways to get the talks going again.

A Palestinian negotiator sent to Washington by Mr. Arafat will press new Palesti-

Shaath, headed the PLO delegation in past rounds in Egypt. He was due in

sources said.

Washington in time for a meeting with Warren Christopher before the secretary of state departs on a trip to Asia on The talks are for im-

The PLO envoy, Nabil

plementing a previous agreement by Israel to let Palestinians govern themselves in the Israeli-occupied territories. But the Palestinians want the issue of Jewish settlements

placed on the agenda. Palestinians want the 130,000 Jewish settlers in Gaza and the West Bank removed. The Palestinians also want Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin to take tougher actions (Continued on page 10)

## Qadhafi: It's peace or else

CAIRO (AP) — Colonel Muammar Qadhafi announced Wednesday that Libya will wage holy war on any belligerent in the world's hot spots who fail to obey a Libyan delegation's call for peace.

The Libyan leader talked to delegation members who include mosque preachers, teachers of the Koran and professors of Islamic studies and the Arabic language.
As reported by JANA, the

Libyan news agency, he told them they will go to Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and northern Iraq to advise the Kurds. JANA said Colonel Qadhafi

told the delegation that "the Great Jamahariya, which raises the banner of Islam, ... cannot face these dangerous Islamic issues like any succumbing country that receives orders from Paris, London. Washington and Tel Aviv." Monitored in Cairo, JANA

reported that the delegation will leave from these "hot Islamic areas" to tranquilize the warring factions there. The agency said Col. Qadha-

fi told them: "Libya will fight the party that will not stop the war, according to the Koran's dictates." JANA quoted a verse from the Koran calling on the faith-

ful to make peace between fighting believers and to punish the one who violates the peace. Libya celebrated Wednesday the 17th anniversary of the power of the people and the birth of the first Jamahariya." Since April 15, 1992, Libya has been under U.N. air, arms

and diplomatic sanctions

pushed through by the United States, Britain and France.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Greek visit aimed at extending European support for efforts to break the logiam in Arab-Israeli peace talks following Friday's massacre in Hebron.

The Greek minister said his discussions here would also cover means to boost Jordaman-Greek relations. He said Athens was keen to developing ties at the highest levels. EU-Jordanian relations will

also be covered, including the Kingdom's bid to enhance cooperation with the EU, he The minister described as

regrettable the Hebron massacre and said that Greece and Jordan would exert all efforts to bring peace to the Middle

Greek foreign minister arrives The Palestinian call for international protection, Mr. Papoulias said, is "fair and just" and that the EU would seek means to respond positively to the request.

The EU Council of Ministers was expected to meet in Brussels on Monday to discuss its stand following Friday's mas-

Mr. Papoulias said he had discussed the issue with Mr. Arafat and that all parties must take measures in response to

"The bloody events in Hebron have created a new situation which must be overcome through new measures which will have to be decided by everybody," he said.

## Government defends RJ, says finances not the only parameter

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Minister of Transport Adeeb Halasa on Wednesday strongly defended the performance of Royal Jordanian, the state-owned national carrier which is under criticism from some members of Parliament, and said the government was pursuing a carefully-studied plan to privatise the airline.

Presenting a detailed report giving facts and figures on the airline's situation to the Lower House of Parliament in response to a demand by 16 deputies, Mr. Halasa said the critical issue facing the govemment was how to maintain the status of RJ as the national carrier symbolising Jordan while ensuring that it is a commercially viable entity, away from posing a financial burden on the treasury.

minister's report to a proposed special committee which will study it and pressent its recommendations to the lawmakers.

The House referred the

The committee will be formed by the permanent office of Parliament in consultations with the heads of the various political blocs in the House. No time frame was mentioned for the completion of the proposed panel's work.

In his report, Mr. Halasa said determining the future of the airline based on figures related to its assets and liabilities was not the right approach since the national carrier was not just a commercial enterprise whose future should be decided upon by its economic

performance. He said the government was obliged to meet the liabilities of the airline, which represents Jordan, its people and the gov-ernment to the outside world.

The biggest problem faced by the airline is its debts, he said. The airline is making a net operational profit, but the cost of servicing its debts of JD 579 million was plunging it into

The debts include outstanding payments to a Paris-based consortium of banks which financed the airline's lease/ purchase of aircraft in the late

The airline owes JD 69 million to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Corporation, JD 16 million to the Social Security Corporation and JD 112 mil-

lion to local banks, he said. The debts were accumulated over the years and part of the airline's dues, including payment for the purchase of the planes, were paid in mid-1980s when it sold its aircraft for \$278

(Continued on page 10)

## House votes 59-3 against lifting Kreisha's immunity

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputy Toujan Faisal Wednesday lost her bid to strip fellow lawmaker Jamal Kreisha of his parliamentary immunity but gave no indication that she would drop her legal charges against him. In a widely expected deci-

sion, 59 out of 62 deputies present supported the Judiciary Committee's recommendation to reject Ms. Faisal's request to lift Mr. Kreisha's immunity after a limited discus-

Only Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies Bassam Omoush and Mohammad Owaida did not raise their hands when the vote was taken on the committee's recommendation. Many leftist deputies who in the past showed sympathy with Ms. Faisal left the session before Speaker

Taher Al Masri called the vote. Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that Ms. Faisal had antagonised most of her colleagues when she

attacked them during a special session held in attempt to solve the dispute between her and Mr. Kreisha. She turned down all attempts to resolve the con-

Ms. Faisal had said she would proceed with her legal action against Mr. Kreisha for allegedly insulting her and her Circassian community and hitting her with a hole-puncher during a meeting of a House

The Judiciary Committee rejected the court request to strip Mr. Kreisha of his immunity because never in the history of the parliamentary life of Jordan had " a deputy sued his colleague and asked that immunity by lifted from him" as a result of disputes that began in the House.

"Disputes erupt among deputies but a deputy suing another is unprecedented" since parliamentary life began in Jordan in 1928, the committee said.

The committee also called the "House's need for all its members" to finish its duty as a

reason for turning down Ms. Faisal's request. In what some deputies described as a defiant remark to

the House before the vote was taken, Ms. Faisal said the House should uphold the law regardless of habits and should change "these habits if they are "I had hoped that the House would make this a precedent so

al, adding that it was "improper" for the House to apply the law to her case. Ms. Faisal said her bid to lift the immunity from Mr. Kreisha was politically motivated because she could have waited till the end of this ses-

sion of the House to pursue her

charges. Deputies do not enjoy

that its performance will be-

come civilised," said Ms. Fais-

immunity when the House is not in session. "It was a test for the House in front of our electorate," she said. She said her bid was also a test for deputies' commitment to democracy,

(Continued from page 2)

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

## Fearing Libya's withdrawal, Arab League pledges support

suggested it might withdraw in m the Arab League, the le, gue's secretary-general was quick to assure Empoli of its support in the Pan Am bombing conflict with the West. The league "aims to solve

the Lockerbie crisis through negetiation, mediation and legal settlement," Secretarycieneral Esmat Abdul Meguid. a former Egyptian foreign minister, told Egypt's stateowned Middle Bast News

Since there is no extradito a agreement with Britain. rice of the United States, it well be difficult to persuade clabrat to extradite the sus-

Two Libyan men are clarged in the 1988 bombing of P. n Am Flight 103, which sent the Boeing 747 crashing with 254 people aboard into Locket nie, Scotland, where 11 villagers died. France also wants to a k with four Libyans about the bombing of a UTI airline flight over Niger in 1989.

On Sunday, Jummah Al Fizzani, Libya's minister for promoting unity among Arabs, at acked Arab League memburn for honouring internationat sanctions the United Nations imposed in April 1992,

The U.N. Security Council tichtened the sanctions on Dec. 1 to include — besides the air, arms and diplomatic embargoes — a ban on importing oil refinery equipment and arrecting some of Libya's assets

Dr. Abdul Meguid told the Middle East News Agency (MENA) the three plaintiff countries should respect Libya's sovereignty since it "Cenounced international terrerism and expressed its willingness to try the suspects in a neutral country."

Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, leader of the country of almost four million people, has been known to support "liberation movements" like the Irish Republican Army. His government asserts that it has abandoned such enterprises, hawaver.

Libya, the most vocal advocate of Arab unity, said Monday it is considering quitting the league to protest Arabs' submission to U.S. and Israeli force. Without Libya, the official

news agency JANA said. "Arabs would be able to welcome their brother Israel."



The agency said Libya informed Dr. Abdul Meguid that Tripoli has begun steps to quit. It said Dr. Abdul Meguid urgently telephoned Col. Qadhafi pleading him to recon-

Official Libyan Television broadcast Sunday night what it said was the taped conversation between Dr. Abdul Meguid and Col. Qadhafi.

Dr. Abdul Meguid's voice monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London, urged Col. Qadhafi to hold off a decision until the two meet. Col. Qadhafi is heard to reply: "Israelis and the Arabs are embracing each other while the Arabs are not meeting. This does not make sense.

Col. Qadhafi, who sees himself as heir to Gamal Abdul Nasser's pan-Arab dream, has made known his anger at fellow Arabs for honouring the international sanctions against

JANA said Mr. Fazzani. head of the Libyan ministry that is supposed to promote unity of all the Arabs, told Dr. Abdul Meguid Libya was moving to withdraw because the league "had failed to offer anything to the Arab peoples."

"Member states of the league have participated in blockading the people of great Jamahariya (Libya) in implementing a resolution issued by the crusader enemy," Mr. Fazzani was quoted as saying.

"What is taking place is the Arabs' submission to U.S. and Israeli force," he said, "Therefore the Libvan people are seriously thinking of leaving the Arab League, so that the Arabs would be able to welcome their brother Israel."

## Aideed militia dismisses Cairo talks

Abdullah A. Saudi, the Li-

byan president of the Bahrain-

based Arab Banking Corpora-

tion (ABC), has resigned in

what appears to be an effort by

the bank to distance itself from

Libya and preempt possible

ANC, the Arab World's big-

gest bank, announced Monday

that Mr. Saudi had resigned as

chief executive officer, presi-

dent and deputy chairman due

to "external circumstances." It

said the move was "necessary

to protect shareholders' in-

terests and safeguard the

the U.S. administration's assi-

duous pursuit of "designated"

Libyan nationals or capital in

an effort to plug holes in the

economic sanctions against

Last December, after U.S.

President Bill Clinton pledged

to tighten sanctions against

Libya, the U.S. froze the assets

of the Bahrain-based Arab

Financial Services (AFS), of

which Mr. Saudi is chairman

and in which ABC has a 36 per

cent stake, for a six-week

The U.S. Office of Foreign

Assets Control claimed that

AFS, which posted total assets

of \$312.48 million in 1992, was

60 per cent controlled or influ-

without comment on Feb. 2,

after a trip to Washington by the governor of the Bahrain

Monetary Agency, Abdulla

Saif, and Bahrain's minister of

economy, Ibrahim Abdul

Bankers in Bahrain had

Bankinng sources said Mr.

feared that the U.S. action

against AFS presaged similar action against ABC.

Saudi was on a U.S. blacklist,

barring him from entering the

United States. They said

Washington had placed ABC

under Libyan-related sanctions

during the 1991 Gulf crisis, but

that swift action by the bank

had reversed the action within

The sources spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity and their

information could not be inde-

Mr. Saudi, 57, an interna-

tionally renown figure in the

banking world, founded ABC

in 1980 with capital shared by

the Central Bank of Libya,

Kuwait's Ministry of Finance

and the Abu Dhabi Investment

pendently confirmed.

Authority.

Karim.

The assets were released

enced by Libyan interests.

That was a clear reference to

bank's future.

U.S. action against it.

MOGADISHU (R) - Warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's milita on Wednesday dismissed peace talks in Egypt as irrelevant but said Somalia's rival factions could meet within weeks on home soil to discuss the future.

Issa Mohammad, Somali National Alliance (SNA) secretary for external affairs, told Reuters the solution could only be reached in Somalia, which has had no central gov-ernment since January 1991.

He said talks bringing together all factions could be held here following the return of General Aideed, who had been touring East Africa for the last three months and is currently in Kenya."

"When Gen. Aideed comes back — and he plans to come back very soon — and when those who are in Cairo return, talks will soon be held," he

"Aideed and the others (his rivals) have said some sort of administration should be in place before the Western contingent leaves Somalia. That leaves us less than a month,"

The SNA said on Tuesday it would not attend the Cairo talks, which are organised by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Organisation of African Unity chairman, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, Gen. Aideed's chief political rival, and 12 other members of his coalition of factions known as "the group of 12" are in Cairo.

"A true agreement will come when all organisations come round a table in Somalia. discuss their differences and then, reach a decision," Mr. Issa said Wednesday. "The talks in Cairo are irrelevant and a delay in solving our problem."

Mr. Issaa said recent informal contacts between 16 major factions in Nairobi had been successful. Those discussions, he added, would provide the impetus for a conference inside

U.S. forces and those of other Western nations serving in the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) plan to withdraw from Somalia by the end of March.

There are fears that their withdrawal could lead to a renewal of the civil war of 1992 that destroyed the country and brought a famine that killed 300,000 people.

Mr. Issa said that Egypt could not understand Somalia's internal problems, which intensified with the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Said Barre in 1991.

Gen. Aideed and several other faction leaders harbour a profound distrust of Egyptian efforts to find a solution to Somalia's crisis. They believe that Egypt, and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, the former foreign minister in Cairo, are biased in favour of factions which oppose Gen.

Aideed.

Mr. Issa said Gen. Aideed had not rejected Mr. Ali Mahdi's plan of a five-man rotating presidency but said Mr. Ali Mahdi had been premature in announcing his idea. "Anyone can propose a type of government," Mr. Issa said. "But whether it is accepted depends on the decisions of the factions when they meet,"

## Kabul — Ramadan brings calm days, rocket-filled nights

KABUL (AP) - The Holy Month of Ramadan has not stopped the battle for this shattered capital, but it has changed the war's rhythms.

The days, when most everyone is fasting, are now relatively calm. But fortified with a meal at sunset, the warring soldiers illuminate the nighttime sky with red tracer bullets and notoriously inaccurate rockets that could land just about anywhere.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's troops, who control most of Kabul, have clung to their turf despite a ferocious onslaught launched Jan. 1 by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his ally, warlord Rashid Dostum.

With neither side gaining ground and casualties mounting, there were hopes that the fighting would ease during Ramadan, which began Feb. 13. Muslim societies everywhere slow down during the Holy Month, in part because of

the dawn-to-dusk fast. In Kabul, the main effect has been to change the war's hours from day to night.

A worsening food shortage sends residents running around for supplies during the day. "There's still food in the markets, but prices have skyrock-eted out of reach for most ordinary residents.

Mohammad Zia was a teacher before the war shut down his school. Now, like many residents, he's on the street hawking family possessions to buy food.

'We don't have any food. My school has been closed for years. I have no salary, no- by the day.

thing," said Mr. Zia, standing beside an old cart loaded with well-used tin pots, a pair of leather boots, some plastic flowers and dirty carpets.

Kabul's relatively calm days are still no guarantee of safety. There's often a burst of rocket fire every few hours. On Tuesday, a rocket hit one of the city's markets, killing at least one and wounding nine.

"It's a quiet day today," said Jaquelina Chateunay, a nurse with the French-based Medecins Sans Frontieres who was on duty when the casualties arrived at Jamhouriat hospital. To someone who often sees the wounded arrive by the dozen, it did seem like a quiet day. There is hardly a building in

the city that hasn't been damaged. Entire neighbourhoods of Adobe houses have been reduced to rubble. Houses that are still occupied are surrounded by sandbags and the shattered windows are covered in plastic.
The rockets that rain down

on the city, even during the daytime, are often way off target. More than 10,000 have been wounded and about 1,000 killed over the past two months, the vast majority civilians hit on the streets or in their homes. Now that the factions are

doing most of their shooting at night, their aim is even worse. The city has been without electricity for months. Even those rich enough to afford generators are finding it difficult and expensive to buy fuel, which is becoming more scarce

## **Kuwaitis in Boston** accused of slavery

BOSTON (AP) — A couple from Kuwait kept their Sri Lankan housekeeper as a slave, starving her, spitting on her, denying her medical care and threatening to kill her, federal prosecutors said Tuesday.

"This is a case of slavery, slavery enforced by fear," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Vettelbach. "A modern day version of slavery in Quincy, Massachusetts.' Talal and Abair Alzanki are

being tried for conspiracy and involuntary servitude, in a federal indictment that gives a long list of alleged abuses inflicted on 26-year-old Vasantha Gedara. The Sri Lankan national worked for the Alzankis for four months in 1992.

In his opening arguments Mr. Vettelbach said the Alzankis held Ms. Gedara's money and passport, pre-vented her from sending letters or using the telephone, kept her inside, and forced her to work 12-hour days, seven days a week for little or no pay.

He also said the Alzankis fed Ms. Gedara only one piece of pita bread a day, refused to let her see a dentist about a decaving tooth and made her scrub the bathroom four times a day with chemicals so harsh their fumes made her faint.

"When she consented to go to the United States she didn't know what she was getting into," said Mr. Vettelbach. Ms. Gedara, now working

and living with a family in the Boston area, left Sri Lanka for Kuwait to make money and escape political persecution. she said in an earlier Associated Press interview.

In Kuwait, Talal Alzanki's mother hired her to work for him in the United States. The Alzankis paid to fly Ms. Gedara to Massachusetts September 1992.

Prosecutors say Ms. Gedara's enslavement started the moment she landed and ended in December 1992, when some nurses hired to care for the Alzanki's sick baby helped Ms. Gedara "escape."

But attorne s for the Alzankis said Ms. Gedara was not a slave because she was never forcibly kept in the apartment; the door was always unlocked; she had frequent contact with visitors; and she often left the apartmen ... go with Abair Alzarki to ...e hospital.

Michael Collera, who represents Talal Alzanki, cast the situation as a "misunderstandtreme stress and a language The Alzankis speak Arabic;

Ms. Gedara speaks Senegalese and the two women spoke only a smattering of English at the time of the alleged servitude. In addition to the stress of being a foreigner in the United States, Talal Alzanki, now 30. was getting poor grades in his

graduate courses in electricalengineering at Boston University, Mr. Collera said. On top of this, he said, the couple's new baby had severe birth defects, including a severed and curved spine and water on the brain. Then, on Nov. 25, 1992, the day after

the baby came home from the

hospital, Abair Alzanki had a

miscarriage. All these factors combined to create a poor work environment, said Mr. Collera, but not one of slavery.
"Whatever her expectations

were coming to America (Gedara) knew she was going to be paid to clean and take care of a sick child. She knew it was going to be lonely." he said. "She did not come here

involuntarily."

Dennis Sayler, the attorney for Abair Alzanki, repeated this description of Ms. Gedara as a lonely woman in a foreign country stuck in a bad job. Ms. Gedara was expected to testify Wednesday. as well as

some of the nurses who helped

her leave the Alzankis' apart-

## Indonesia to urge U.S. to accept PLO demands

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, said Wednesday it would urge the United States to accept Palestinian demands for measures to ensure the safety of Palestinians in the occupied territories. "We will convey to the United States that the problem is better settled in accordance with Palestine's proposal because we believe it is acceptable and reasonable. The important thing is the peace process should not be damaged." Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters after meeting President Suharto. He said Mr. Suharto had received a letter from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat, asking him to become involved directly in the problem of last Friday's massacre of more than 60 Palestinians by an Israeli settler. Mr. Arafat told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday that an international force was needed to protect Palestinians in the territories. The PLO suspended peace talks with Israel following the killing. The Security Council continued its debate on the massacre on Tuesday for a second day.

#### Talks on Cyprus adjourn after first round

NICOSIA (AP) — U.N.-sponsored talks on confidence building measures between the rival Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities were adjourned for six days Tuesday after completion of a first round. "The two sides are closer on some issues than on other issues," said U.N. representative Gustave Feissel after a 90-minute meeting with President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader. "We heard enough things that should enable us to come up with ideas to help them get together." he added. Mr. Feissel conferred with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash in Turkish-occupied north Cyprus earlier in the day. He said the United Nations will present its "ideas" when talks resume next Monday. The latest round of negotiations started on Feb. 17 after a break of nine months. The package of confidence building measures proposed by the United Nations is designed to break the deadlock between the two sides for the reunification of the island in a bi-zonal federation. The package envisages the hand over of part of the Turkish-occupied coastal city of \_ Famagusta to U.N. control and the return to it of Greek Cypriots who fled the 1974 Turkish invasion. The disused Nicosia international airport will also be handed over to the United Nations for use

#### Algerian women denounce teacher's murder

PARIS (R) - An Algerian women' group expressed its revulsion on Tuesday at the murder of an elementary school headmistress in a statement issued by the official news agency APS on Tuesday. She was the 24th school teacher to be killed during two years of political violence blamed on Muslim activists. "Through the assassination of women it is the very foundation of our existence as a nation that is threatened, said the statement by the Algerian Women's Movement for Family Solidarity in Rural areas. It expressed its "dismay, shock and revulsion" at the murder of Zhour Meziane, 54. mother of three children and headmistress of an elementary school in Algiers, who was attacked by three gupmen inside her school on Sunday. "At present we are seeing... the destruction and annihilation of all who represent progress and knowledge, the objectives for which we have paid a heavy tribute," said the statement carried by APS monitored in

### Iran denies opposition claim of hit squad

ROME (R) - The Iranian embassy in Italy has denied an allegation by an opposition group that Tehran had sent assassins to kill a dissident living in Florence. The embassy issued a statement which dismissed the claim as without foundation. The opposition National Council of Resistance of Iran alleged on Sunday that two men had followed the dissident, who was not named, to kill him or prepare for his murder. Police in Florence have confirmed that they detained two men last Saturday for carrying false identity documents but said they had no evidence that would indicate they were killers. The Iranian embassy statement said police headquarters in Florence had informed the ... so on that the nationality of the two men was not yet know:. Mchammad Hussein Nagdi, a former Rome representative of the council, Iran's main opposition group for the last 11 years, was shot and killed in Rome on March 16 last year.

### Algerian hijackers were due for sack

PARIS (R) - Three policemen who surrendered after hijacking an Algerian airliner to Spain were about to be fired, the Algerian Interior Ministry said Tuesday. They were recruited less than two years ago and were "in an irregular administrative situation since ten days ago and consequently were about to be dismissed," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official news agency APS. The agency monitored in Paris did not give their names but said they were "young agents of public order in Tindouf," a desert town in south-western Algeria. On a domestic flight from Oran in western Algeria to Annaba in the east, they hijacked an Air Algerie Boeing which landed in the Spanish Mediterranean town of Alicante on Monday. They released all the passengers and crew and asked for political asylum in Spain.

### Kuwait considers army jobs for women

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Salem A! Sabah was quoted on Wednesday as saving that the emirate might give women non-combat jobs in the army. "The role of women in administrative and desk work helps saving military human resources... the step is still under study. Sheikh Ali said, according to Al Qabas newspaper. He said five women had already been trained abroad for unspecified tasks. Al Qabas reported. The oil-rich Gulf state, with a native population of around 620,000, is short of manpower and depends largely on foreign labour.

#### House votes against lifting immunity house with immunity" deputies do not need) more disappoint-(Continued from page 1) ments in the symbols of their

"If we were debating through insults and beating then what do we tell the people who watch us ... we should set an example." Ms. Faisal told wmakers. Mr Masn asked the de-

pulses not to engage in a dehate over the issue. Ms Faisal reiterated her charges that Mr. Kreisha de-

icoded martial laws against democracy and "harmed national unity" when the dispates crupted between the Serectine the committee's

that all deputies address the the other books, Ms. Faisal. serged her colleagues to tend article 75 of the Const tution, which gives the King the right to postpone elections under extraordinary circumstances, to prove that they are concerned with continuity in the work of the legislature.

"Our continuity is dependent on article 33 of the Constitution. In order to be a

The second section is a second second

should amend that article, she

amending article 73," said Ms. proper language."

Her, it recent seed as:

tinued."

should vote in favour of criticised for addressing the legislature with harsh and "im-

IAF rejects lifting the immun-

"How could we be deputies while we do not dare amend the Constitution ... (Deputies) who are true to themselves Faisal, whom many lawmakers

Mr. Masri pleaded with lawmakers not to respond to Ms. Faisal's remarks in what appeared as an attempt to prehand of tracterized most of the

Akaileh and on la salt of the 16-member IAF bloc that the ity from any deputy unless he result of which his membership in the House cannot be con-

Mr. Akailch urged deputies to address each other in a civilised way, saying, "(people

vent the heated exchanges that

IAF Deputy Acceptable Al-"has committed a crime as a

## leadership."

Dr. Akaileh said deputies should not allow conflicts that emerge in the House to develop into disputes and should solve their problems within Parliament.

"We want the deputy to be strong in his stands and defend the rights of the people ... Why are we trying to weaken him and have the sword of lifting his immunity hanging over his head," said Dr. Akaileh.

The performance of the House has deteriorated, and so have the way in which deputies address others and the nature of debates, subjecting the House to criticism from all sides," he said urging Mr. Masri to activate the internal regulations of the House against all violations.

During the session, the House adopted a proposal by Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti to issue a statement condemning the massacre at a Maronite church in Lebanon.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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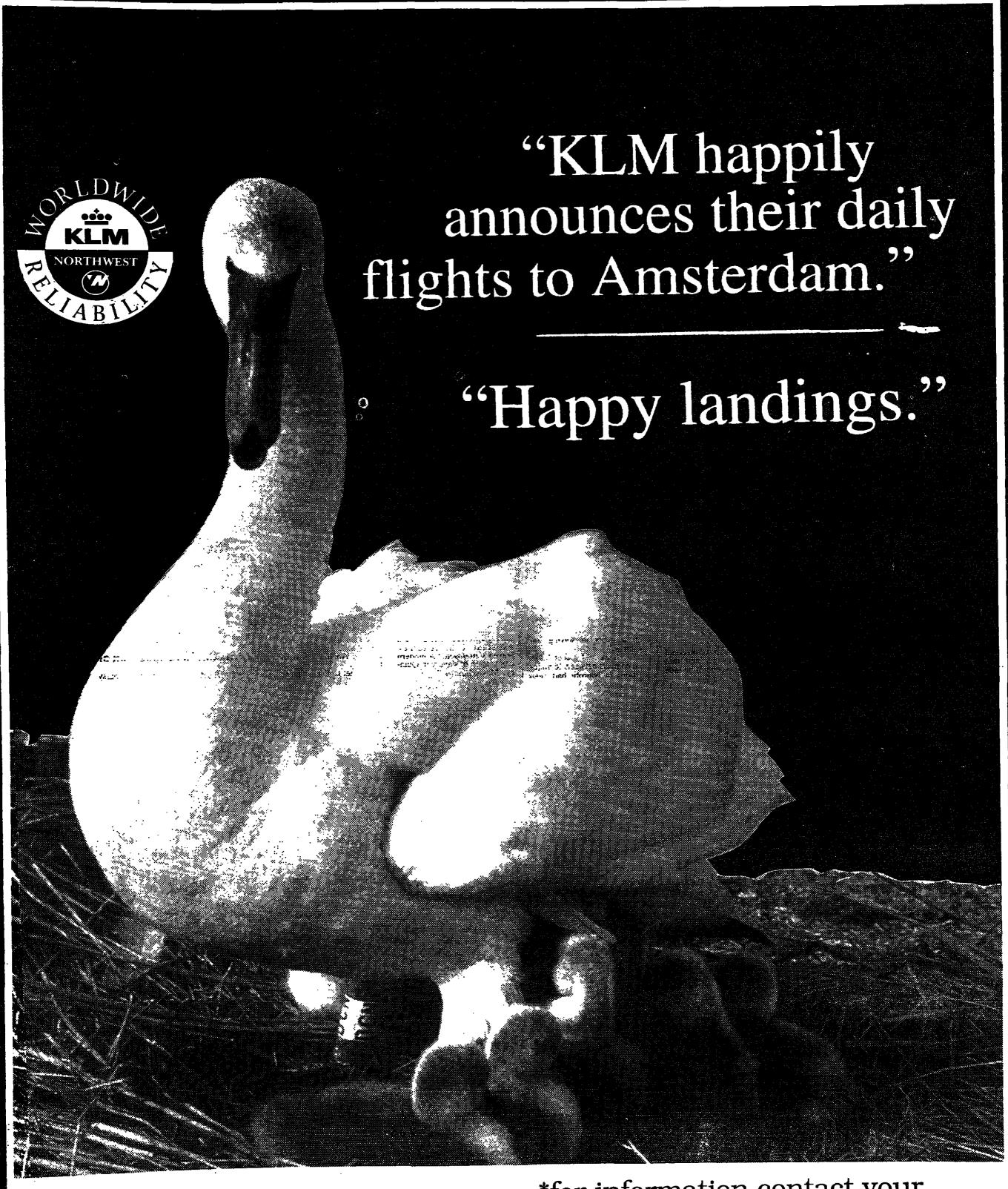
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## **Diplomacy of sorts**

THE ARAB lives lost in the Hebron massacre may have not gone in vain if the flurry of diplomatic activity that followed will succeed in providing effective protection to the Palestinians on top of accelerating the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord. The Rabin government has yet to yield to Arab and international pressures calling for putting in place an international regime for protecting Arabs under occupation from the kind of genocide that occurred at the Ibrahimi Mosque last Friday. The release of 500 or so Palestinian prisoners has impressed neither the Arab side nor the international community but could be seen as a small step towards adopting more meaningful confidencebuilding measures by the Israelis. The U.N. Security Council is still struggling to formulate a resolution acceptable to both sides and may succeed in the end to adopt a decision that would satisfy the minimum security needs of the Palestinians.

The best news, however, could be that the Rabin government may now be willing to cut into half the period for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. If this turns out to be the case, then there is room for optimism provided that the new measure is also accompanied by moves to provide safety for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The flurry of international and regional activities in the aftermath of the massacre, is in itself necessary. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been on the line contacting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat about how to contain the damage that was sustained by the Hebron terrorist act. A Russian emissary has been in contact with the PLO leadership in Tunis as well as with the Israeli government in a bid to preserve the momentum of the peace effort. The European Community has likewise lost no time in joining forces with others in order to save the peace process, and even give it a new momentum.

It seems that all parties have learned a big lesson from the recent spilling of blood in the occupied territories and are now pooling their resources to replace the cycle of violence with constructive moves towards peace.

But this cannot be done without moving swiftly and effectively in the direction of providing true security to the Palestinians during the interim period. By upgrading the priority consideration of the settlement issue, the stage could also be set for a real advance in the critical peace talks. Hopefully, Israel and its allies could be forthcoming on these legitimate concerns and by so doing they would make the cause of moderation much more tenable for all of us. The U.S., in particular, has to make up for its failure to act properly in reaction to the massacre. Washington's pathetic response to the need for security for Palestinians, coupled with President Clinton's weak-kneed reaction to an otherwise grossly abhorrent terrorist attack, makes it necessary for the Americans to show greater statesmanship now. They will not be able to do that if the Israeli army itself upstages them in calls to get Jewish settlers off Palestinians' back.

### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

IN THE face of the continued massacres and atrocities against the Palestinian people, the majority of nations have demanded that the U.N. Security Council ensure protection for the oppressed people, said Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. But he said such demand was rebuffed thanks to the United States and the U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, who suggested sending civilian observers to the occupied lands. Of course, said the writer, observers can by no means ensure prortection for the Palestinian people, and for this reason the Israeli government has given its consent to the presence of observer. Thus we see that the massacre in Hebron and the continued atrocities committed by the Israeli troops and settlers in Palestine have received an ignominious reaction on the part of the world community and the U.N. organisation, said the writer. He said that the U.N. observers will only be stationed in Jericho and Gaza and no way can they be close to the holy shrines in Hebron or in Jerusalem.

Washington does not want an open session for the Security Council in order to expose its biased stand. It rather seeks a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, he added. The writer said that if the U.N. peacekeeping forces could do nothing in Bosnia, no one expects mere observers to provide protection to the Palestinian civilians.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said that the Arab countries did well in suspending the Arab-Israeli talks to support the PLO's similar decision in protest against the massacres and to back demands for protection for the Palestinian people. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Arabs are not closing the door in the face of talks to regain control of their usurped lands. But suspension of the negotiations was necessary to give the Arab leaders time to take stock of the situation and coordinate their position vis-a-vis the news developments. What the Arab masses expect now is a strong collective Arab stand in the face of Israeli settlement programmes and a firm stand with regard to the implementation of the U.N. resolutions, said the writer.

## The security dimension of the Hebron massacre

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

WITH RESPECT to the Hebron Massacre, there is much for the journalist, the political analyst, the sociologist, the psychologist, the poet and the man in the street to reflect upon. Much can be said about the feelings of those dawn worshippers at the moment of the merciless slaughter and demise — the helplessness they must have felt, the shock, the fear, the rage - about the cruel memory the survivors have to live with. Much can also be said about the sense of horror, of impotence, of disgust and of hatred about Baruch Goldstein's carefully planned and spitefully executed bloody act — the timing, the exact place where he stood when he opened fire and the type of weapons he used; about Israel's convenient use of linguistic labels - a Palestinian committing an act of violence, even in self-defence, is a "terrorist", an Israeli, on the other hand, is (at worst) "insane". Much can be said about Israel's sovereignty over the holy places (including Jerusalem), whether or not it is justified in such claims and qualified to play the role of the protector of the three faiths in the many Palestinian holy cities; about the extremely selfish, rude, provocative, dangerous, and illegal presence of settlers in the occupied territories; about the unjustified slowness of the peace process which, had it been more speedily and less intransigently implemented on the part of Israel, could have averted the Al Ibrahimi mosque tragedy and the ones committed daily before and after the massacre; about the new possibilities available to the Arab and Palestinian negotiator;

I wish to limit my discussion here, however, to one dimension of the chilling massacre, namely the question of Palestinian and Israeli security.

From the very beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, much more attention has been paid to Israel's security than to that of the Palestinian people or the Arabs more generally. We all understand, of course, the root causes of such unfair (and often tragic) imbalance. Up until Israel's ruthless invasion of Lebanon in 1982, an invasion which inflicted heavy losses and a great deal of suffering on Lebanese civilians and Palestinian refugees. Israel had remarkably succeeded in convincing the Western world of the validity of its most often exaggerated and even avaricious security claims. The image, up until that particular event and the intifada, was that Israel was a poor, helpless (or heroic) democracy living in the middle of hostile, more powerful countries. Its security ought to be of paramount importance. A quick look at the key speeches delivered by nearly all U.S. presidents or presidential candidates in the said era, for example, reveals an excessive concern with Israel's security (by contrast, little or nothing is said about Palestinian or Arab security).

By Robert Mahoney

Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

- Even before the Hebron

massacre Palestinian Leader

Yasser Arafat was in trouble

Bank and Gaza Strip had be-

gun defacing his image on wall

paintings and posters put up triumphantly last September to

mark the signing of a historic

Palestinian self-rule deal with

Now the slaughter of more

than 60 Palestinians by a Jew-

ish settler has crystallised

opposition to that accord for

ever fearful of the 120,000 set-

tlers in their midst.

nany ordinary Palestinians.

It has also dented the credi-

bility of Mr. Arafat and the

leadership of his Fateh faction

of the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO), accord-

ing to Fatch members them-

comer," said Freih Abu Me-

dain, a Fateh member close to

"The peace process has

totally lost credibility, and the

leadership have lost credibility

now that they are facing the

Faisal Al Husseini, Mr. Ara-

fat's senior aide in the West

Bank, was seered when he

visited Jerusalem's Mokassed

Hospital to see victims of last

Support for the accord be-

Friday's massacre.

people," he told Reuters.

"In Gaza the PLO is in a

Youths in the occupied West

with his own people.

Israel, of course, made maximum use of such an extremely favourable situation, amassing all kinds of sophisticated weapons (including weapons of mass destruction), occupying any land it saw fit (i.e. southern Lebanon), planting settlements throughout the territories it occupied in 1967, and (naturally) killing Palestinians and Arabs inside and outside the occupied territories on an almost daily basis-all under the pretext of security.

Though the 1982 invasion and the intifada revealed not only the truth about Israel's military status and might but also the falsehood of many of its security claims, Israel continued nonetheless to place great emphasis on its "security." In fact it

"Inevitably, peace is the only guarantee of security, for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. But many of us worry even after the establishment of peace, for two main reasons. First, while the vast majority of the Palestinians are ready for peace with Israel, many Israelis (the likes of Goldstein) are not."

is such claims that have hindered, at times even crippled and obstructed, the momentum of the peace process since Madrid unjustifiably. One could indeed argue that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have, since the Sept. 13 agreement, been stuck on almost all significant issues because of the infamous question of Israel's "security": the size of the Jericho area, the settlements in Gaza and the border crossings.

The point here is not that Israel's security is not important. Rather, it is that Israel's image of its security and the unfair demands it has attempted and is attempting to impose are: a) blown way out of proportion and, more crucially, b) immensely one-sided. Why do we not hear about Palestinian security? Who is more secure, we should ask, the Israelis or the Palestinians? Baruch Goldstein's crime and the daily crimes committed by the Israeli soldiers before and since provide an apt answer to the question. The intifada has come to remind people in the whole world, those who know the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and those who do not, that the Palestinians are essentially peace-loving people, that they are remarkably civilised in dealing with the repressive measures of a ruthless occupier, that the negative image Israel has tried (at times successfully) to perpetuate about them as "terrorists" and "uncivilised" is false: The stones they throw at armoured vehicles and heavily armed soldiers are symbolic, signifying

their rejection of occupation and of Israeli oppression. Palestinian acts of violence since the intifada have been extremely limited and isolated, and in no way compare with

The bloody acts of Goldstein (the supposedly civilised Ivy Leaue graduate, of Columbia University, and the supposed life-saviour, he is a physician) and of the Israeli soldiers in the various Palestinian towns and cities come to remind us of the utter vulnerability of the Palestinians, of their almost total lack of security. Any fanatical Israeli terrorist (settler or no settler, "extreme" or not "extreme," to use Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's own terms) can kill any Palestinian anytime anywhere, as easily as Baruch has.

We worry about the security and safety of Palestinians under occupation, and we do not trust the Israeli army, under whose knowledge the massacre was committed, to protect them. The immediate disarming of the settlers, the "extreme" and the not so extreme, is a must. The dismantling of the settlements, which were established under the false pretext of security, is ultimately inevitable, for the sake of Palestinian security first and foremost, to which Israel and the international community ought to lend a listening ear from now on. Otherwise, more disasters are likely to happen. The words of the Rabbi at Goldstein's supposed funeral, "One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail," are already a

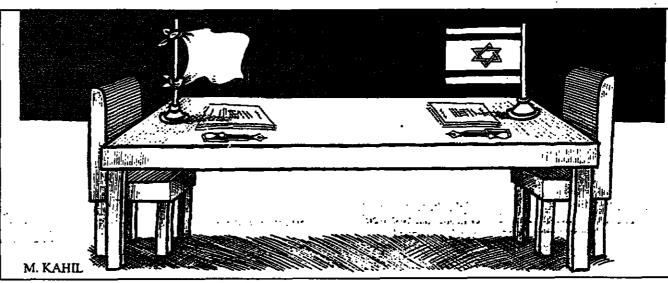
warning.
Inevitably, peace is the only guarantee of security, for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. But many of us worry even after the establishment of peace, for two main reasons. First, while the vast majority of the Palestinians are ready for peace with Israel, many Israelis (the likes of Goldstein) are not. Israel ought to educate and re-educate its citizens about the Palestinians and the Arabs; it must act now to eliminate many of the misconceptions and the prejudicles it planted in the

minds of its people vis-a-vis Palestinians and Arabs.

Secondly, Israel, we ought to remind, possesses many kinds of weapons of mass destruction: biological, chemical, atomic, and nuclear. Such weapons pose a double threat: a) they can anytime pollute and poison our environment and b) they may at any time, even after the establishment of peace, be used against us. Who is to ensure our safety and security?

Like Iraq and North Korea, Israel must soon be searched; all its weapons of mass destruction be eliminated, if we want a safer, more secure Middle East, and if the Arabs and Israelis are to live in true peace.

The ball is in the court of our negotiators now, in the court of the international community (particularly the USA), and in the court of Israel. We demand true security and peace. The writer is a professor of American literature at Yarmouk University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



## Slaughter pushes Arafat into corner

gan to wane last December when differences over security delayed the transfer of authority and an Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

The mosque massacre has accelerated the erosion, forcing Mr. Arafat to insist on international protection for Palestinians and the disarming

He knows that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will never agree to compromise Israeli "sovereignty" by allowing a foreign military force to operate in the occupied lands. Nor will Mr. Rabin risk a civil war among Jews by forcing large numbers of settlers off land they believe is God-given.

Yet Mr. Arafat has to move. He is under pressure from all sides. His own people want the Israeli army and settlers off their backs and an improvement in living conditions. Many who believed the Norwegian-brokered self-rule

peace now doubt it. The United States, Israel's chief ally, is committed to push through the Oslo accord and is trying to nudge Mr. Arafat in to an accommodation with the Jewish state.

deal would be that path to

Arab states too, despite public reticence, see peace with Israel as being in their interest and are leaning on the PLO

chief, diplomats say. The massacre has robbed Mr. Arafat of time and manoeuvrability. It has further delayed his arrival in Jericho and Gaza, where he needed to set

quickly to defuse tension and keep the lid on dissent. It has also brought to the top of the agenda thorny issues such as settlement which both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin planned to tackle in the second phase of the self-rule deal.

up a Palestinian police force

"People feel insecure. Rabin's word that Israel will take care of the settlers is no longer enough," said a Fateh official. "We have to get a commitment to discuss settle-

The PLO leadership fear that support could shift further to militant groups like Hamas if it carries out its vow to avenge the Hebron killings.

"The massacre has revealed

great defects in the Oslo agreement," Ghassan Al Khatib, a former Palestinian peace negotiator said. "Arafat is compelled to retreat from some aspects of the agreement in order to keep what is left of popular support both for the accord and the PLO itself," he told Reuters.

Hence the strong rhetoric and tough demands coming from PLO headquarters in

1987. Thus, there were vio-

Tunis which has dismissed Mr. Rabin's crackdown on extremist settlers as empty and

Mr. Arafat hopes this stance will calm anger and allay security fears in the West! Bank and Gaza while behind the bluster he can finesse a way out with U.S. mediation.

Mr. Arafat has only sus- loss she worke pended not broken off peace sed at her with talks. He believes Mr. Rabin's makin to terror political future in bound up almost as much as his own with

the peace process. PLO officials hope he can negotiate something stronger another of the presence" which Mr. Rabin sie scared of us has agreed to allow in Gaza 'e three women and Jericho. But they acknowledge Palestinians are unlikely to get an armed protection

Mr. Arafat also needs con- Algan llagship il cessions on settlements. PLO Set for the NATO officials hope for the removal of "provocative" enclaves such as those in the heart of Hebron, a city of 110,000 Arabs. They also want the dismantling of Netzarim settlement, an isolated enclave south of Gaza

PLO officials believe the Palestinian-Israeli talks will eventually resume in Washington but they insist negotiators ton but they insist negotiators and anti-immigr

This massacre is just an plan lovers apart alarm to show what could reading legally on. come if settlements are not shads and waves come if settlements are not district with." Mr. Abu Medein The Ill-statted constant. The PLO is in the the victims of a further than the victims of the vict

## Massacre paints new colour to political landscape

As was only to be expected, the fall-cut, the consequence. of the Hebron mosque massacre are many and varied. The most significant of these are psychological, that is attitudes and emotions. The most important attitu-

By G. H. Jansen

dinal change is that the spell of the omnipotence of the One World Power, the U.S., and, in the Middle East, the U.S. Israel has been broken. For the last three or four years whatever the U.S. "riding high" wanted the U.S. got. The break came on Feb. 25 when three Arab governments, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, walked out of talks with Israel in Washington. This was a slap in the face of U.S. President Bill Clinton because on Feb. 25, within hours of the massacre, he tried to rush the Arabs into carrying on "business as usual" by inviting Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to send their negotiators to Washington, possibly by March 2, or even earlier. According to Mr. Clinton. both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat said "ves" at the time.

But the Arab govern-

ments, facing the blazing

hatred and anger of their

people, said "no" and left

Washington despite Amer-

ican pleas not to leave and

not to do anything precipitate; even using the specious argument that breaking off the negotiations, even temporarily, was what the enemies of the peace process. Jew and Arab, wanted.

What put steel into the hitherto wobbly spines of the Arab governments was not only fear of the wrath of their people but that this time the Clinton administration's bias in favour of Israel was altogether too blatant. Particularly so in the U.N. Security Council where, first, the U.S. tried to delay a meeting. then suggested that the council issue only a statement and not a resolution and then tried to water down the terms of the resolution. By abandoning any pre-

tense that it was an honest broker between Arabs and Israelis in the peace process, the U.S. made it easier even for Arab governments to say "no". And having done that once, they could do it again. The emotional climate in the politics of West Asia has undergone a basic change: in their mind-set the Arabs are no longer in America's pocket, to be taken for granted.

The same breaking of a spell of subservience has taken place within the PLO, where it seemed as if the reformers could never do anything to curb the one-

man, arbitrary rule of Yasser Arafat. Thus, soon after the reformers had extracted from him a promise to consult the PLO Executive Committee before taking decisions, he immediately accepted Mr. Clinton's invitation without consulting anyone. It is the PLO, through its Executive Committee, that has now publicly humbled Mr. Arafat by saying that no PLO representatives will be going to Washington for talks with Israel, for the time being. Only a special envoy to talk. not to the Israelis, but to the Americans, to work out what the Americans could get the Israelis to do before negotiations can resume. As a result of Hebron, the PLO could be a much more democratic body. Western unity in the Secur-

ity Council, between the U.S., U.K. and France, has been broken as a result of the blatant pro-Israel bias of the U.S. over Hebron. France tabled a separate resolution of its own calling for better protection for Palestinian civilians. As a result of Hebron, the Security Council, perhaps, could behave in a more equitable manner if France continues to take its own stand.

Any diminution in the prestige and power of the One World Power in this area is

bad for its local surrogates, like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, because Egypt in particular has been pushed by the U.S. into playing a prominent role in the PLO-Israel talks, always urging PLO to make concessions. These surrogates will now have to play more cautious and less prominent roles.

The Hebron massacre will, incluctably, have an important impact on Israel-Palestinian "peace" negotiations. While some of the fellow settlers of Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba wish to believe he is a hero, he has done the settlers a singular disservice because settlers and settlements cannot but be discussed in the next round of negotiations as is being demanded by the Palestinians: according to the Olso accords, these issues were supposed to come up only after the interim period of five years.

Apart from these intangible changes in feelings and attitudes, the Hebron massacre has produced a dramatic, overt, visible change: the widespread popular anger it caused has relit the flames of the intifada. And restarted it in revitalised form because the rioting pulled in places and people who had not been involved in the earlier stages of intifada which began in

lent riots and killings in the places like Nazareth and Jaffa and the Negev, in Israel "proper": something which had never happened on such a scale before. Furthermore, the bedouin tribesmen of the Israeli Nagav, so subdued that they are used by the Israeli army, also rose up. perhaps out of sympathy with Hebron, perhaps out of revenge for the theft by Israel of their tribal lands. As a result of Hebron, bitter, open anti-Israeli feeling is now more widespread than ever before both in the occupied territories and among Palestinians in Israel itself. It was bad enough that a

Jewish zealot should shoot scores of Muslims in the back while they were praying in a mosque, but what is much worse is that his fellowzealots in his settlement of Kiryat Arba and elsewhere should show no remorse after the killing. Quite the contrary. The U.S.-born doctor Baruch Goldstein has been eulogised as a "hero", a "martyr", who "carried out one of God's commandments" (but not of course the commandment saying: "Thou shalt now kill"). In short, thanks to Hebron, the whole world has been presented with the ugly, the hideous, face of Zionism:

that is it a brutal racist creed. Addit Feacung 11. The Hebron massacre has began technic to had its effect on the internal political scene within Israel. It has shown Mr. Rabin, who was elected on the ticket of making peace with the Palestinians, as a stubborn, stiff necked, old-tasmoned.
Zionist saying "no" to disarming settlers, except a
chosen few, "no" to withchosen few, "n drawing settlements, except an You remember By chosen few, and "no" to a You remember he chosen few, and "no" to a temember has foreign supervisory force. The total could could be temporarily". But a foreign the late 1970s, with the late 1970s with only a Toreign remporarily". But a foreign the late 10.70% with presence, however temporarily over a house of state of board or being one which has to be super only the rattle of difference the coalition between Mr to be seen in fashing the seen in fashing and savidly one of the coalition between Mr to be seen in fashing and savidly of the seen in fashing savidly of the seen in savidly of the seen the coalition between where the coalition between where the coalition between the coalition in fashing and its locations aviding his meretz. Eberal and the Firm

Rabin's Labour Party and re-actions avidly plant left wing.

It also puts a strain on the left wing relations between the govern left indiculously have ment and the army which ment and the army which thinks that not enough has dammon was trucked been done to curb militan is buge surge in personal to counter disturbance bed thousands of personal to counter disturbance bed to them all to caused by the actions of the state of them all the sacre can already be seen to be a crucial event in the so days were and it will become even more than a six on sequence and it will become even more than a six on sequence and it will become even more than a six on sequence and it will become even more than a six on sequence and it cach unpresent the future.

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Published Every Thursday

By Sue Baker Reuter

LONDON - Today's women reporters have made big strides towards equality in their profession but still face some of the same obstacles as the trailblazers of 50 years ago.

"Women do, more or less, have open access to any story today they enjoy the same training as men and are paid the same rate for the job their views are listened to and taken seriously and they are just as likely to be killed or wounded as a male reporter," says a new book about

women reporters. But author Anne Sebba laments: "Although it may be generally agreed that there is no longer anything in the field of news which women are not able to cover, there are still few of them at the top.'

While today's women journalists are largely spared the depth of male scorn lavished on 19th century pioneers, Ms. Sebba says many still encounter the same resistance faced 50 years ago by those who tried to break into "nontraditional" female news

same obstacles as 50 years ago areas such as wars, politics,

Higher up the corporate ladder, the picture is even bleaker, she says in Battling For News: The Rise Of The Woman Reporter.

commentating or editorial

None of Britain's serious newspapers, such as the Times or Daily Telegraph, has yet appointed a woman as editor — although three popular tabloids have done so - while at the British Broadcasting Corporation only 10 per cent of senior managers are women with 18 per cent in middle man-

Things were worse, though, in the pioneer days. recounts Ms. Sebba, whose

book is largely historical. In 1881, when the aristocrat Lady Florence Dixie was asked as a stunt by the Morning Post to report on the Zulu wars, becoming the first British woman sent by a newspaper to cover a war, the popular press derided her as a "brainless socialite who would have trouble keeping up with the

Flora Shaw, who reported as a freelance from Gibraltar, Egypt and Belgium, became the first woman to join the permanent staff of the Times in 1892 - but only after writing a regular column for two years without being allowed to use her name.

Nearly 50 years on, World War II provided the spur for a new generation of women to break into frontline reporting.

But it was an uphill bat-

Clare Hollingworth of the Daily Telegraph scored a coup with a report about the military activity on the German-Polish border which marked the start of World War II.

According to Ms. Sebba, since Hollingworth was young, attractive and female her report was initially disbelieved by her boss in Berlin.

Another trailblazer. American Martha Gel-Ihorn, also battled against male prejudice and professional jealousy - from her own husband, the journalist and author Ernest Heming-

Today's women reporters face

After he arranged to have her stripped of her accreditation, she stowed away on a hospital ship and hid in a toilet to reach the Normandy beaches and become the only unauthorised reporter to cover the "D-Day" allied invasion of Еигоре.

Half a century later, veteran BBC television reporter Kate Adie says sexist attitudes still exist, although she admits the past 15 years have seen radical changes for women. 'Most male journalists

still believe that you're fluttering your eyelids and that you opened your legs to get the job or the story," Adie is quoted as saying in Ms. Sebba's book.

lished last month by Hod-Adie, who made a name der Stoughton, makes little attempt to analyse why women, who make up 52 per cent of journalism trainees, fail to win the top

She notes that those involved in secruiting women as reporters at a senior level in the BBC find that most applicants for these jobs are still men.

"The reasons are not clear, but informal discussions have revealed that too many women are still put off by what they perceive as the cut-throat nature of the news business, which, they fear, would be incompatible with personal and domestic responsibilities." she

Many women journalists would disagree. Julie Flint's response in her book review in the Independent On Sunday was a dismissive "oh yeah?"

"This book has a humbling tale to tell," Ms. Flint wrote. "It should perhaps have been sub-titled "The Spread Of The Woman Reporter, for they don't rise any higher than they did half a century ago when women such as Hollingworth (and) Gellhorn... were at, and often over, the

## Women are still an oddity on aircraft carrier

By Maggie Fox Reuter

ABOARD USS SARATO-GA --- Lola Lewis expected to get raped when she became one of only three women to join 5,600 men aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga.

"At the least I expected a lot of comments," said the petty officer from Washington state.

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Instead, she found the sailors she worked with looked at her with something akin to terror in their

"They press up against the wall when we go by," said another of the trio, Kathy Calfee. "I think

they're scared of us." The three women, communications security specialists, are the first to be assigned long-term to the Saratoga, flagship aircraft carrier for the NATO ships

patrolling the Adriatic as part of the international effort in former Yugoslavia.

Although women have been serving on U.S. naval vessels for over a decade. they are being allowed more combat roles and would take part in any NATO strike against Serb forces besieging the Bos-nian capital Sarajevo.

Lewis and her cabinmates have been amused, and not a little relieved, at their reception on the Saratoga — a male bastion which has seen action off Lebanon, during the 1986 bombing of Libya, and in the Gulf War.

"It's a lot nicer than I expected," said Petty Officer First Class Calfee, a native of Las Vegas. "It's a lot better than the horror stories the guys had been telling

"I was afraid of getting raped," admitted Lewis, a petty officer second class. Instead, the men go out

of their way to be polite. Because there are only three women, Calfee and Lewis berth with an officer, ensign Jennifer Bolin.

"They are always careful," Bolin said of the male majority. "I haven't heard a swear word since I got here so I know they're being

The three, who are based at Rota, Spain, all volunteered for duty aboard the Saratoga. They will stay at least three months — probably as long as six — and were intrigued to find they might become involved in combat just two weeks after coming aboard.

\*It adds a little spice. said Lewis, who joined the navy to "get as far away as possible" from her tiny farming community.

The bombers, fighters

aboard the Saratoga would be assigned as part of any strike against the Serbs.

Like the other sailors and aviators aboard ship, Bolin, Calfee and Lewis say their everyday duties would not change if the F-14s, F/A-18s and other jets went on the offensive.

"We might have to work a little bit longer," said Bolin, a naval academy graduate from Boston. "I think about those guys who have to load the bombs. They're the ones who will be affected."

Nor do the women expect special treatment, although their sex does afford them some concessions.

Their quarters are luxurious by carrier standards. Racks, as sailors' bunks are called, are stuffed in almost as an afterthought in various nooks and crannies of the ship. Men wrapped in passageways as toilet and shower facilities are often distant from their berths.

for herself covering the

April 1986 U.S. bombing of

the Libyan capital Tripoli

and the 1989 pro-

democracy uprising in Beij-

ing, told Ms. Sebba that a

widely circulated story dur-

ing the 1991 Gulf War that

she had British troops sear-

ching for a lost pearl earring

in the Saudi desert sands

was untrue, apparently in-

vented by snide colleagues.

ana Goodman was con-

fronted with a telling inci-

dent when in 1986 she be-

came the first woman to run

one of the organisation's

foreign bureaux, in Bonn.

assumption that the next

incumbent would be a

man," Ms. Sebba, a former

Reuters journalist, wrote,

"that the welcoming note

left by her predecessor read: 'Your wife might like

to know where the local

Ms. Sebba's book, pub-

shops are."

"So great was the

BBC Radio reporter Di-

But the three women have been assigned a quarantine cabin in the medical clinic. There are six racks and, wonder of wonders, an attached bath-

"This is a lot nicer than we expected," Calfee laughed as she brushed her teeth by the lamp of an electric lantern. "I feel sorry for those guys.'

Nonetheless, facilities are basic. The navy-style shower dispenses lukewarm water only when a hand-held button is depressed, thus saving fresh water on a ship that must produce its own supply while at sea.

The thin metal walls do little to isolate the cabin from the noises of a busy 24-hour operation and the

women gave up on stuffing pillows against the loudspeaker that bellows out regular announcements.

Bells ring, whistles blow and voices bark at reveille, for evening prayers, and to tell sailors when meals begin and end. Privacy is an unknown concept.

"You have to get used to it fast," Calfee said.

"I can sleep through anything now," Lewis agreed. Bolin though finds it is not enough of a challenge.

"I am waiting for them to open submarines to women," she said, maintaining that she would not be put off by the even more. cramped sleeping conditions and rules of operation that mean staying under water — and out of touch with the outside world — for as long as three months.

## "Now that would be

# carrier for the NATO stups raped," admitted Lewis, a and reconnaissance aircraft towels wander the dimly lit 24-hour operation and the fun."

news-gathering."

Underpinning Sebba's generally thought-provoking

relevance of such questions. When covering a war, for instance, should we not now be asking if what takes place at the front line is really more important than what happens to the local population? Equally, could it not be that partisanship is, in certain instances, actually an

Not only are the questions changing, but also so are some of our ideas about good reporting - much to the credit, suggests Sebba, of women reporters - Indepen-

### French immigration laws keep lovers apart "Under the pretext of

By Juliette Hollier Larousse Agence France Presse

PARIS - A battery of new French anti-immigration rules and regulations is keeping lovers apart and separating legally-married husbands and wives.

The ill-starred couples are the victims of a juridical imbroglio caused by antiimmigrant legislation voted in August, 1993 by the new conservative government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, reacting to anti-

12 per cent unemployment of 3.2 million and the reces-

The new laws were aimed cialising in arranging mar-

dreds of true lovers are hav-

against a growing trade in marriages of convenience in which a French man or woman would marry a foreigner so that he could obtain French citizenship. Authorities say that mixed marriages increased from 23,200 in 1986 to 30,500 in 1991 and that they have uncovered networks spe-

riages.
But in the process hun-

fighting marriages of convenience. The government is preventing people from loving each other and founding a family," said Ruben Urrutia, an activist in a Committee for the De-

> and Couples. Since last week, three women forcibly separated from their husbands have demonstrated every evening outside the Paris Prefecture, with their wedding photos pinned to their T-

> fence of Mixed Marriages

"I got married on May

hell broke loose." said Anne, a 28-year-old dancer. She wed a Bulgarian, Todor, who had been refused political asylum.

"We met more than two years ago, we lived together, but we waited to get married because we wanted to make sure it was true love, not just to get papers," Anne said.

As parliament debated a new nationality code, they went to the prefecture seeking a new residence permit. Six policemen arrested Todor.

Back in Sofia, Todor has

attempts to get a visa to re-enter France from the French consulate. "Our rights are being

flouted. We followed the procedures, but the authorities don't keep their word. I can't stand it any more,' said Anne. Fabienne Bricet, a 24-

year-old student, and her Algerian boy-friend Ahmad Khalifa published marriage banns for their wedding on June 19, 1993. Khalifa, whose residence permit had expired, was deported to Oran, still unmarried.

Bricet went the following immigrant feeling caused by ing their lives ruined. 15, 1993 and on the 18th, all made two so far fruitless month to Oran, but there said.

against the second criterion

in the last 20 years. In the

the French consulate refused to marry them, saying it could only wed two French citizens. Algerian authorities also refused to marry them because Bricet had no residence permit.

She is now back in France while Khalifa hopes for a visa to return to France. Several hundred couples

have joined immigrant aid committees since Interior Minister Charles Pasqua's new laws came into effect. Mr. Urrutia's defence committee has 250 cases on its books and 20 new cases come in every week, he

**BOOK REVIEW** 

Long skirts sloshing in the mud of Fleet Street

**Battling For News** 

By Anne Sebba Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99

It is 1861. For the past two years Miss Wren ord, the sister of the Times correspondent in Italy, has s ccessfully filled in for her bedridden brother. But tow she is requesting to be given assignments in her own right. The paper's manager replies: "My Dear Madam, our letter did not find me on duty and my colleague who was acting in my absence very wisely skirted the impossibility of saying 'no' to a lady - for that is what I am , bliged to say, though I do not doubt your ability to do rell what you propose."

Three decades later, Flora Shaw presents he self to the same newspaper. She is supremely capable of providing much needed "colonial stories," but hiring a woman remains forbidden. It is finally agreed that sh: can write a fortnightly column, but unsigned: No one is allowed to admit that what appears in print comes from the hand of a woman. Moreover, Shaw is provided with no facilities, not even a desk. Undeterred, this doughty Victorian lady plonks herself down on the office floor to pen her copy.

In her informative book, Anne Sebba chronicles the last century and a half of women trying to make it in a particularly unyielding male preserve - so unyielding that certain incluctable attitudes linger to the present day. The bulk of the volume is heavily laced with anecdotes, many of which will no doubt surprise its readers. The unsigned report, for example, announcing to the world the outbreak of war in Europe, in 1939, was filed by Britain's Clare Hollingworth; only 27 years old at the time, she actually landed the scoop while in the course of pursuing her very first professional assign-

And then there is America's intrepid Marguerite Higgins, of the Herald Tribune. In 1944 she reached Dachan just ahead of the U.S. Army and jumped out of her jeep - only to find a watchtower filled with grim-looking SS guards pointing rifles and a machine gun at her. Not knowing quite what to do, she called out to them firmly, in German, with instinctive calm, "Come here, please; we are Americans." After a moment of silence, as they stared intently at Higgins, the 22 bemused SS men lowered their weapons and walked down from the watchtower to surrender to her.

The hurdles for ladies trying to get into the profession during the last 150 years were legion. For starters, it did not help that women were barred from going to university until 1870, by which time a degree had long since become almost a requirement for journalism. In addition, there was the enduring opprobrium levelled at females being in the kind of employment that often required working late at night in such close proximity to

Yet more difficulty lay in the strict modes of dress. The turn-of-the-century London journalist Emillie Marshall observed that long skirts "invariably sloshed around in the mud of Fleet Street", while the high-buttoned or laced boots, accompanied by unwieldy hats "speared to the hair by two stiletto-like hat pins with murderous points" resulted in, all told, "a sore handican to

book are questions that have been debated for more than a century: are women more inclined to be emotionally affected, and therefore more susceptible to bias, when covering certain subjects?

Sebba's view is that times have changed, and so has the essential ingredient of good journalism?

Linda Joffee

## Whatever happened to backgammon?

#### Once highly fashionable, it deserves a revival, says Christopher Bray of the Independent

DO YOU remember backgammon? You couldn't walk into a club, pub or café in the late 1970s without tripping over a backgammon board or being disturbed by the rattle of dice. Famous personalities were often to be seen in fashionable locations avidly playing the game. Fortunes were won and lost as people played for ridiculously high stakes.

Backgammon was undergoing a huge surge in popularity and thousands of people took it up. Whatever happened to them all and what is the state of the game 

3 The first question is casier to answer. Many games flourish for brief periods and reach unpreedented heights of popularity. Trivial Pursuit is one example. There is always a

group of people who will play whatever is in vogue and then move on to the next fad, whatever that may be, undoubtedly many people who played backgammon in the Seventies have not played a game since then. But backgammon has a stronger pedigree than Trivial Pursuit, which is probably a one-off wonder. The game has been around for thousands of years in one form or another and is likely to survive for many more years yet. The invention of the doubling cube by some unknown gamesman in America in the early part of this century has seen to

The second question is more difficult. With many games there are a number of factors which will determine whether they become firmly established or simply

fade away when the craze has passed. Let's look at some of the criteria for a successful game in this mod-■ All really good games

are easy to learn, relatively

easy to learn to play well and it takes a lifetime to become truly adept. For games of any complexity, there must be bibliography. Without books and magazines to instruct and provide information

there will be no develop-

ment and the game will die. ■ Clubs and tournaments. Without somewhere to play and like-minded people to play with, again there will be no development. The continued success of bridge is largely down to the huge numbers of clubs all over the coun-

■ No game (or sport) can

succeed today without

media coverage and corpo-

rate sponsorship. You need

only examine the rapid development of chess in this country since Fisher vs Spassky (the 1972 match) to understand the power of the media. The recent Short vs Kasparov match will undoubtedly lead to a further surge of interest in chess. How does backgammon

measure up against these criteria? The first is certainly met. Apparently a simple game to the uninitiated, the complexities of high-level backgammon are endless. It combines elements of psychology, mathematics and logical thinking. Luck is a factor in the short term due to the dice, but over a long session the best player, as in poker, will always win. Computers do not yet play a credible game of backgammon. This is a combination of the complexity of the

programming and the lack of investment in this area.

Backgammon has made

considerable progress

1970s the only books available were simple primers. There were no recorded matches or books on strategy and tactics. The first author to make real progress was the American genius Paul Magriel with his epic work Backgammon (currently out of print and changing hands at up to £75 a copy). Many new authors have come on the scene and there is now a plethora of material to choose from -not, however, in the U.K. In particular a lot of work has been done on the doubling cube, the least understood and most complex part of backgammon. There are also some very good magazines on the market. These emanate almost exclusively from America and Germany, the two strongest playing nations. The result of all of this is that the players of the 1990s are light years ahead of their counterparts of the 1970s in their understanding and playing of the game.

It may surprise many people that there is a major backgammon tournament most weeks of the year. There are two basic circuits, one in America and one in Europe. The two come together in July when the World Championships are held in Monte Carlo. Tournaments are mainly held in five-star hotels in the more pleasant locales of the world (a sharp contrast to our chess-playing brethren). Britain suffers from a lack of a significant tournament because of the fact that our strange gaming laws preclude the holding of a tournament (at least one with money involved) in a hotel. The British Championships have been held in the Isle of Man for many years and one year were even held in Spain! Similarly, while clubs flourish in America, Germany and Denmark, which provided both World Championship finalists last year, Britain is poorly served.

Sponsorship and media

coverage were both available in the Seventies. The picture now is not so good. Most of the major tournaments can attract some sponsorship but there is not sufficient to raise backgammon back to the levels it enjoyed 20 years ago. To do that in this very commercial age will require media, and in particular television coverage. Videotaped matches have proved highly successful within the backgammon community for both their entertainment and educational value. As a TV game backgammon has extremely high potential. Compared with chess, it is easier to understand, moves at a more acceptable pace, has much more colourful

personalities and the luck element that the dice bring means that there is always the possibility of an outrageous turnaround. What more could a TV producer ask for?

So where is backgammon going? As a game it he been around as long as (or longer than) chess and will undoubtedly survive as long. As for the present, in the United States and areas of Europe, particularly Germany and Denmark, it. is on the increase, with tournament attendances rising. In the United Kingdom the game survives but is stagnant. A shot in the arm is required to bring our playing standards up to the levels of our European counterparts. We need to attract new players into the game and find a way to bring top-level tournament backgammon back to Bri-

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By Jean-Claude Elias

To accomplish specific tasks we use appropriate tools, devices, or equipment. To go to the supermarket located on the same street, two blocks away from where we live or work, we walk - we do not take a car. It's faster and more convenient. To kill a flying insect we use a special spray instead of a Magnum 44 gun and to stick a stamp on an envelope we just moisten its back and do not use a hyper sophisticated super glue.

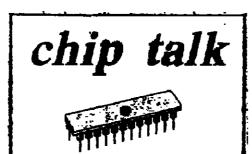
Why is it then that the new versions of computer programmes are so heavy and not proportionate with the work they are intended for?

The hard disk of a personal computer (PC) typically has a current capacity of 120 MB, meaning that you can store on it 120 million characters. This includes both the programmes (the software) and your user data.

If you are considering installing Windows 3.1, Word 6 and Excel 5 (all are Microsoft programmes) on the hard disk here i a simple, though frightening calculation for you: 3 MB for the main DOS operating system, plus 12 MB for Windows, 22 MB for Word and 26 MB for Excel makes a total of 63 MB of disk space to occupy. Half of the disk 's therefore "gone" before you even type a word or cater any of your own data. That is if you are the lucky parner of a 120 MB disk. If yours has 40 or 60 MB, you can forget about the above programmes.

Apart I om the disk capacity question, just running the new p ogrammes requires very fast PCs. Any hing less than a 186 machine with at least 4 MB of memory (8 MB recom nended) will crawl at an unacceptable pice. Not all personal users own such a PC.

Congared to the 26 MB required to run the new Word, the user data looks like a small ant next to an elephant. Unless you are really publishing an encyclopedia or some huge work, your own data (vour typing)



will only take a very minor fraction of what the programme itself is requiring. Moreover, waiting for the mammoth software to start, just to type a short letter is a very frustrating experience.

On the bright side however, is the astonishing number of features the new programmes offer. It is a dream come true. The designers probably went through an ideal wish list of selected users and decided to satisfy all of them. The menus, the colours have been improved, the possibility to read any type of file in any programme is an important advantage. Changing the text attributes (bold, italic, underlined, etc...) is even easier and faster than before. In Excel for instance one can now specify the attributes of a single letter within a cell.

Those who complained about the confusing number of icons (tiny drawing representing the functions to activate) will love the new system that temporarily, elegantly displays the name of the icon when the mouse cursor passes over it. I can confirm for having employed the new software that it is a real pleasure to use.

Still, one cannot help but wonder if it makes much sense to gather all this power and size for simple tasks that could be done faster and in a simpler way utilising. older versions of the same programmes.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Moharmad A. Shuqair

#### AMAZING FACTS

- The first photograph was taken in 1826.
- Honey helps to promote sound and refreshing sleep because it is a body sedative.
- 500,000 gallons of water are used to launch a single intercontinental missile.
- The granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson was the first child born in the White House — 1806.
- The greatest number of eclipses possible i. one
- If the hair on a normal head were shorn and woven into rope, it could support a weight of ten

## LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- What are you doing? - Do what you like.
- Maza taf aloon? If al m yahlo laka. What have you done? Maza fa'altom? — What do you do for a living?
- Maza taf'al litaksab aishak?
- At Rome, do as the Romans do. Darihim ma domta fee darihim.
- I didn't know that. La aarif zalek. You don't tell the truth. Anta la takool al-sidk.
- I don't know what you mean.
- La aarif maza taksid. You don't understand me. Anta la taf hamoni.
- What do you think? Ma ra'yok? Hal tasmah lee bid-dokhool?
- May I come in? - Do you mind if I smoke?
- Hal indak mani' addakhin?

## YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

## CATARRH

This is a very common ailment, especially in civilised communities. There is a chronic discharge from the nose, which is permanently "stuffed up". Often the condition follows a cold. In children it may be associated with adenoids, and in adults it may be due to a sinusitis. For the catarrh which follows an ordinary cold, relief may be obtained by using a pocket inhaler during the day, and inhaling Friar's Balsam (a teaspoon'ul to a pint of boiling water) night and morning.

### YOU'R DREAMS INTERPRETED

FOOTBALL: If you dreamt of playing football.

money windfall of some kind should soon come your way. Could be an unexpected bonus, extra dividends or even a legacy, but whatever it is it will be an interesting size. A dream of watching a tootball game is a warning to be more selective in making new triends.

FREEDOM: If you experienced a sensation of freedom in your dream, you can count on being content with the partner of your choice.

KITTEN: For a woman, a dream of playful kittens predicts a pleasant but unimportant romantic affair. For a man, it signifies a disappointment in love.

### COOKING IS FUN

AUBERGINES À LA PROVENCALE

COMPONENTS:

3 mediu, nubergines 4.5 table poc. - olive oil

500g tomatoes, peeled and chopped salt, freshly ground black pepper

I garlic clove, peeled and crushed 4 tablespoons fresh white breadcrumbs

1 tablespoon chopped parsley

25g butter

#### METHOD:

- Wash aubergines, trim off both ends and cut into slices. Place in a colander and sprinkle with salt. Press down with a plate and leave to stand for one hour so that the excess moisture drains off.
- Wash in cold water and dry on kitchen paper.
- Preheat oven to moderate 180°С.
- Heat oil in a frying pan and fry aubergine slices until golden brown on both sides. Drain.
- Fry tomatoes in oil remaining in the pan, or add a little more if necessary, and season well with salt and pepper. Add garlic.
- Transfer to a shallow casserole.
- Overlap aubergine slices on top of tomato mixture in casserole.
- Mix breadcrumbs with parsley and sprinkle over top of dish. Dot with butter.
- Cook, uncovered, in centre of oven for about 30 minutes or until top is crisp and brown.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CACKLES & CHUCKLES

She was sick in hed, and her husband, who was fixing her a cup of tea, called out that he couldn't find the

"I don't know what could be easier to find," she "It's right in front of the pantry shelf in a cocoa tin

marked 'Matches'.'

\* \* \* \* \*

■ An elderly farm couple were visiting New York for the first time. The sights seemed to interest the old gentleman more than his wife, who finally exclaimed: "John, the way you stare at these city women is

something scandalous. Somebody would think you'd never seen legs before.' "Well." John mused, "that's just what I was

thinking myself."

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

### CHECK YOUR I.O.

### (A) WHO SAID THESE QUOTATIONS?

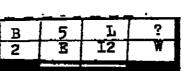
- 1. "Live dangerously."
- 2. Democracy is a government of the people, by the people, for the people."
- 3. I will rather have violence than cowardice masquerading as non-violence."

### INSERT THE MISSING LETTERS

AF-JIDC - GL

(C) FIND THE MISSING NUMBER:

2 E 12 W



## You got no right Amal dressed quickly but her hands trembled and she

By E. Yaghi

"The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." The Gettysburg Address deli-vered Nov. 19, 1863 by Abraham Lincoln.

Amal is a third-year student at a Jordanian university. Her home town is Hebron and she is here on scholarship. She is a small, petit girl, serious in nature, polite, quiet and often pensive. During ten-minute breaks between classes, she sometimes takes a neatly folded letter from her folks and after smoothing it out, runs her finger lovingly down the lines stopping every now and then to ponder over some certain phrase. Sometimes her eyes twinkle, sometimes they shed a tear but most of her emotions are weathered in silence whether happy or sad.

On holidays and semester breaks, she gathers her few belongings, places them in a duffel bag and heads for the bridge that separates her from her homeland and family. And then, once through with the hassle of inspections, continues on her journey to Hebron and home. Her family consists of two brothers and her mother and father who live in a stone house on the hills not too far from the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Once her vacation is over, the solitary Amal with tears of farewell and hugs to her beloved, waves good-bye once again until time and fate bring her back. She is the child of occupation, who has never known anything else. Armed troops overladened with weapons are sights she has become accustomed to, under the stamp of hateful oppression.

When she returned this semester to the university, one of her few friends Sousan, who stays with her in the same dorm, greeted her with, "so glad to see you! How

is your family? Were you happy to see them?"
All smiles, she answered, "I'm glad to see you too! My family is fine, thank you and yes, I'm always happy to visit them and home. But my vacations are too short. Life is hard there but somehow people manage."

Sousan is originally from Hebron too, but unlike Amal, she was born in Jordan so Amal knows her friend can't quite comprehend what living under the intifada is like. Now that she has one year left, one day she remarked to her friend. "I will miss being at the university. Life is so peaceful here and the only worries I have are exams.

The other day during a storm, Amal was awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of thunder accompanied by streaks of lightening which lit her room. Outside, the little chestnut tree near her window suddenly cracked in two and smoke charred its centre. She ran over to her roommate's bed, shook her and exclaimed, "Sousan, wake up! Come and see our chestnut tree! Its been burned and split in half! And look at the moon, it's black and sinister!

Had it been a bad omen, she wondered. And then on Friday after Amal ate her Suhour, a terrible massacre occurred far away in the Ibrahimi Mosque in her hometown of Hebron. Although she had exams, she felt listless and restless and not knowing how to study, returned to her bed to try to sleep. Finally, way after the sun appeared, she dozed off, only to be summoned later still foggy-eyed and confused by a caller at her dorm. "Who is it?" she asked her friend Sousan.

"I think she's your aunt. She wants to see you, says it's urgent!"

could barely fasten the clasp to her dress or brush her hair. "I'm afraid," she whispered to Sousan. "What if it's bad news?" Her friend patted her arm reassuringly. 'Don't worry. Be brave and God be with you. Would you like

me to go down to accompany you just in case?"

Amal nodded in the affirmative. Both girls ran down the stairs to the reception room to an elderly woman

who sat blinking away tears and wringing her hands. Amal's complexion turned the colour of white ash and she forced out the words: "Please, aunt, what's the matter? Is there something wrong with my family?"
When the young girls approached her, the elderly woman stood up. She hugged Amal and then still holding her shoulders declared: "My dear child, I regret to inform you that this marriage during the Fair prevent to inform you that this morning during the Fajr prayer. your father and young brother were shot by some Jewish settlers! I think you should come home with me for at

least a few days!" So that's it, she thought as an anvil seemed to pound in her head. The charred chestnut tree, the veiled moon, her restlessness. Then she blurted out, "Please tell me, are they still alive?"

"Control yourself child. Sit down." The girl sat.
"Believe me, it is very difficult for me to tell you that
your little brother died instantly and your father is in critical condition at Al Ahli Hospital.

That evening, the still corpses were shown on the news and even American President Bill Clinton expressed his condolences to the bereaved families of the slaughtered. But who could console Amal? Who would take away her pain? The river of blood that floods its banks of apathy and indifference rushes towards a sea of hate, carnage, wretchedness and despair which swells and envelops everything in its path. Amai felt she could cry no more and at her uncle's house in a dark room she asked the world: "Why? Why are my people persecuted? My little brother was slain along with countless others by an American physician who hated him for no reason. Perhaps my father will die too. Here I am, not allowed to go home and not knowing how to continue my studies for all life seems useless. Even if I do graduate, to whom shall I teach the fundamentals of linguistics, phonetics, and Shakespeare? It all seems so pointless, so futile! Innocent people massacred like sheep. Where is my promised country in which we will establish a government of the people, by the people and for the people? Oh, world, you are so cruel! You got no right to treat me like you do; you got no right to wrench my heart in two!"

Bloody Friday witnessed the brutal massacre of the faithful who knelt in prayer during the holy month of Ramadan. Little and big Palestinian boys within the occupied territories bravely hurled their small stones against tanks of steel and machine guns and armed enemy troops bent on further killing. Ambulances screamed their way over cobbled streets through the crowds to deliver the dead and wounded, while wives, mothers and sisters of the victims wept in vain for those who had gone to pray and never returned.

For youth like Amal, will Palestine ever have a new

birth of freedom upon grounds that cannot be hallowed or consecrated by the living? And what will all our demonstations and shallow words of condolences do for such as Amal? Her life will never again be the same,

Will ours?

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 3

9:30 Local programme

10:00 News In English

10:20 Faces And Places

11:50 Movie Of The Week — Murder On The Rio Grande

Starring: Victoria Principal and Peter Onorate

An exciting and enjoyable river trip for Maggie, a divorcee, and her friend. Eric, turns into a nightmare.

Friday, March 4

9:30 Walter And Emily

Zak gets a taste of French culture at home - and Walter goes back to work to save money to buy Emily a new diamond ring.

10:00 News In English

10:20 G.P.

Playing By The Book

Dr. Steve exposes a company for marketing an untested drug, which causes death in the hospital. The doctor who administers it gets into trouble too.

11:30 Scene Of The Crime

Devil Music

Two bodies end up in a big aquarium. Both deaths are the result of a promised marriage proposal that was never kept.

Saturday, March 5

9:30 Family Matters

Bowl Me Over

the men's ego.

It seems that "women" are beating their male partners in every single bowling game; a fact that threatens

10:00 News In English

10:20 Local Programme

10:50 Feature Film - A Thousand Heroes

Starring: Charlton Heston

and James Cobum.

Passengers on a domestic flight in the U.S. have a traumatic experience, when their plane crashes and catches fire. Hundreds of rescuers perform heroic

Sunday, March 6

deeds.

9:30 You Bet Tour Life

More money prizes are given - away to contestants on You Bet Your Life.

10:00 News In English

Of The Past

10:20 Documentary - Out

Signs And Symbols Man's first attempts at using signs and symbols in writing are traced back to the Sumerians who lived in Iraq, and to the Mayas in Honduras, some 3,000

11:10 Island Son

Everyday People

years ago.

Luke is fatally ill; and Daniel, amid personal concerns to get married, suggests the buying of a hotel to shelter people

threatened with expulsion.

Monday, March 7

9:30 The Torkelsons

Say Uncle

Kirby and his uncle are guests of the Torkelsons; and both men have love on their mind.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Rescue

A dangerous operation is set to rescue four U.S. soldiers held hostage by the North Koreans. They were sent to save a U.S. submarine from falling into North Korean hands.

11:50 Sorry

Great Expectations

Timothy's visiting aunt wants to know how true her sister's claims are. about how good Timothy is in financial investments, in

order to decide whether to bequeath him her wealth.

Tuesday, March 8

9:30 The Respected Family

Heated arguments and rows shake the respected family, especially when the two sisters fail to see eye-to-eye.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Cape Rebel

11:15 Night Court

The Retirement

Florence, the court's usher spends her last memorable moments with her friends before her retirement.

Wednesday, March 9

9:30 Too Close For Comfort

Henry & his brother are reunited after 40 years of separation only to start an argument about who was responsible for their separa-

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — The Coral World

The Shipwreck Reefs

The documentary explores the strange and colourful life existing in the seas off Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Divers also explore the hazardous wreckage of a sunken ship.

FE g John Follain

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## U.S. films tempting talented foreign actresses

By John Horn The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Juliette 'n': Binoche had a choice. The il. actress could co-star in a lavish, Hollywood blockh buster from the world's nost popular director, or she could take the lead role in an obscure, low-budget the French film.

Ms. Binoche did what any serious artist would do - she passed on Jurassic Park and instead made Blue.

Like several young and talented European stars, Ms. Binoche is being ini courted heavily by studio deal makers. Heftier salaries and worldwide exposure make the Hollywood offer sheets increasingly appealing, but with the promise of that economic bark comes a Leative bite.

Although their financing is spotty, European filmmakers continue to explore daring, often riveting subjects. Blue, for example, stands out as a poetic and often heartbreaking

account of a widow's grief, and Ms. Binoche has an outside chance for a Best Actress Academy Award nomination next week.

The studios, meanwhile, have settled into predictable rhythms, and the strong female promise of more Thelma And Louise roles seems to have died when the two movie heroines plunged off a cliff three years ago.

Consequently, many overseas performers who travel here in search of higher profiles (and fatter paychecks) wind up forfeiting their acting potential at the customs gate.

For example, Rutger Hauer, who played in the Dutch classics Spetters and Soldier Of Orange, now lists Buffy The Vampire Slayer as one of his local

The tradeoff is particularly acute for actresses such as Ms. Binoche, Anna Galiena and Valeria Golino. All three are beautiful, exotic and capable, rare attributes in Hollywood's fascination

with typically onedimensional, shallow beauties — take your pick of any box-office attraction. What's more, all three foreign-language stars speak English beautifully.

Yet while these actresses may be cast in complex, prominent parts in Spanish. French and Italian productions, female roles in the United States are sharply limited. Foreign and domestic actresses alike are shoehorned into windowdressing parts, frequently playing subservient roles to male marquee heroes.

"I know my best work is in my Italian movies." says Ms. Golino, who has made-15 little-known European films to six American titles, including Hot Shots, Rain Man and the May release Clean Slate.

"The roles (in the United States) were never the motor of the story, where in Europe they were," she

Ms. Galiena, who starred shallow. in the French film The Hair-"We make some good dresser's Husband and co-

films and some bad films (in Europe)," she says. "Some films — like Cyrano — are made to cross the ocean. But most of our films are made to please. It's not a big conglomerate affair. It's free and people can express themselves. When one of our pictures flops, nobody commits suicide; no studio head loses a job." Ms. Galiena recently co-

starred in Being Human, a Robin Williams movie due this spring that Ms. Galiena says is both well written and directed. Strangely enough, she speaks not English in it but an obscure, romance language.

Ms. Binoche says that while she was not legally bound to star in Blue, she had made a personal commitment when the Jurassic-Park offer (later accepted by Laura Dern) came through.

What she found in Blue, though, transcended dinosaurs and box-office grosses: The character was rich enough. "I'm not looking for the biggest (movie), for fame and money," Ms. Binoche says. "I knew this woman and I wanted to make a trip with her."

Like Blue, Ms. Galiena's The Great Pumpkin is not destined to be a runaway hit. Set in a child's psychiatric hospital, The Great Pumpkin does not yet even have a U.S. distributor, Ms. Galiena says.

"It's natural to be confronted with questions about how this will be received in the states." says Ms. Galiena. "The American movie machine is such that you have distribution all over the world. You may do a great European picture like The Great Pumpkin and it's not seen all over the world.'

Like anyone else, Ms. Galiena has to make a living. Despite the recent three rejections, she says she is not "against doing a commercial project. But I will have to want to do it. The one principle I have in life is to be true to myself."

After finishing Clean Slate with comedian Dana

Carvey, Ms. Golino left the United States for Greece, where she starred in a movie whose biggest name was American character actor Seymour Cassel.

There was so little money that the actress wrote a check to help bankroll the production.

"It was a great script with an inspired director," she says, and typical of overseas efforts. "I'll do an American movie next and then a movie in Georgia (of the former Soviet Union) with another poor unknown,

"In Europe, it's more of a director's movie. In America, generally, it's more of a producer's movie. Because so much money is involved, it has to be liked by everyone. It's not one person's the filmmaker's - point of

In the end, though, bigticket blockbusters do have their appeal.

"If they had offered me Jurassic Park," Ms. Golino says. "I probably would have done it."



Valeria Golina

## Fellini scriptwriter recalls sad final years of 'il maestro'

By John Follain Reuter

PARIS — Italian film director Federico Fellini was celebrated by his countrymen as a legend of post-war cinema when he died last October.

Now a new picture is emerging of a man who was increasingly lonely and sad in the last years of his life and felt abandoned by the film world.

According to Fellini's criptwriter and close friend Bernardino Zapponi, the director fell prey to depression and became obsessed. with death. He would repeatedly call his friends simply a write a script. to find out what they were hi a partnership which

In an interview. Zapponi described his long relationship with "il maestro". and how Fellini turned increasingly bitter before his death at the age of 73.

"He was impatient, distressed and distressing. He was always obsessed with death." 66-year-old Zapponi, who scripted many of the films which made Fellini a towering figure in the Cinema, said during a visit to Paris.

"Fellini phoned everybody, he needed to call us just to ask what we were doing. I'd ask him: 'What are you up to?'. He was full of pessimism — 'nothing. no one's offering me

Zapponi, who plans to write a book about the time he shared with Fellini. whom he first met in 1967. Fellini had been impressed by a collection of short stories which Zapponi had published and asked him to

lasted more than a décade." Zapponi wrote scripts for a series of films including Satvricon in 1969, Roma in 1972, and La Citta' Delle Donne (City Of Women) in

Each time Fellini started a project, he suffered from the same paralysing afflic-

"He was joyful enough when signing the contract for an advance payment. But when we had to start work he felt some disgust. he was afraid of the project - there was something stopping him from going

ahead," Zapponi said. The two men would spend hours exchanging ideas before committing anything to paper. "We'd meet at my home or go out for a drive to the seaside at Ostia outside Rome. He'd make my wife drive so we could chat in the back.

"It wasn't work, it was fun. Fellini spoke in images. that's what we would talk about. We'd look through books of actors, he'd choose one with the face of a butcher for the part of a senator — he always looked tor contrast.

Fellini proved a demanding taskmaster on the set. despite persuading actors of the calibre of Marcello Mastroianni (for his most famous film, La Dolce Vita. in 1960) and Donald

Sutherland (for Casanova set in 18th century Venice) to work with him.

Juliette Binoche

cent months.

stars in the upcoming Ita-

lian movie The Great

Pumpkin, has turned down

three American roles in re-

standards," she says, "They

were projects of very high

visibility, and rather secure

of having box-office suc-

cess. I just didn't like the

scripts. I found them super-

ficial: Well-constructed but

"They weren't up to my

"Fellini was very good at seducing actors, but he could also throw tempers. He would shout and swear and throw the megaphone to the ground. He bled actors dry," said Zapponi.

Impatient and obstinate. Fellini brooked no criticism.

One exception was the 1980 film City Of Women, in which a man meets a woman on a train and is led into a world of aggression and confusion populated

only by women. After Zapponi had written the script. Fellini was worned that the film would quickly become dated because it did not take into account the feminist move-

"It was the only script Fellini ever showed to anybody to seek advice. He showed it to (British) feminist Germaine Greer. who was then living in Italy. 是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,这是 第一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就是一个人,我们就

The film became a hybrid, it did not have any continuity." Zapponi said.

After the film was made. Fellini broke with several members of his team, including Zapponi and his chief cameraman, in an attempt to make a fresh start. But the director and scriptwriter remained friends, seeing each other frequently.

In his last years, an increasingly depressed Fellini found it difficult to find a producer willing to finance his ideas despite his five Oscars, one awarded for life-time achievement.

"He refused what was offered him. There was an American offer for him to" film Dante's Inferno. The last years were very sad. His phone calls to me were heart-rending," Zapponi

Fellini's melancholic mood was reflected in his last major film, the 1989 La Voce Della Luna (The

Reuter

LONDON - Two of the

dancers are in wheelchairs

and are unable to use their



The late director Frederico Fellini (centre) rehearsing with two

unidentified actors during the shooting of his film Roma (file photo)

Voice Of The Moon). in which a romantic vagabond seeks out primal voices that have been drowned out by the din of modern life.

"Fellini was emptying his drawers, the film is a sum-

mary of his stereotype characters," said Zapponi. The last time Zapponi saw Fellini was in a Rome

hospital, the day before the director, who had suffered a stroke, fell into a coma

Toole is surprised at how

Candoco's work can change

people's opinion of disabil-

this. We just enjoy what we're doing," he said.

swiftly won over. The Guar-

dian described their work as

"But we're not pushing

Ballet critics have been

ity in one performance.

from which he never recovered.

"Come back soon," Fellini told him as he lay on his death-bed. Come back alone so we can talk about work."

# European museums locked in unequal battle with thieves

By John Follain

Reuter PARIS — When thieves made off with The Scream. a priceless 19th century painting by Edvard Munch. they left a cheeky note at Oslo's National Gallery.

"Thanks for the poor security," read the note. left when the picture was taken on Feb. 12, the opening day of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, the message sounded like a warning, not just to the Oslo gallery but to collections across Europe.

Directors of leading museums from the Louvre in Paris to the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, and from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence to the National Gallery in Prague, are learning the hard way.

'The lesson of the Munch theft is that we are all vulnerable and that no museum is fail-safe," said Maurice Graveaud. The government official in charge of security at France's major museums including the Louvre and the Musee D'Orsay in Paris.

"We're fighting against a paradox. We have to prolect artworks as if they were freasures in a bank but we. also have to show them to the public. Criminals find the gaps." he said. In Oslo, one man climbed

into the gallery while his accomplice steadied the lad-

der. They smashed a window. grabbed Munch's 1893 painting of a face wide-mouthed in terror. and vanished.

It was not a particularly spectacular or daring raid, compared to some other landmark thefts.

Again at Oslo's National Gallery, thieves made off in 1982 with no less than eight masterpieces - works by Rembrandt. Picasso, Gauguin, Van Gogh and Goya worth up to \$6.7 million.

One April morning in 1991, four armed Dutchmen slipped into Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum just before dawn and grabbed 20 works by their 19th century compatriot - including Self Portrait and Still Life With Sunflowers.

The same year, a band of thieves walked out of Prague's National Gallery with four Picasso paintings worth \$30 million, the famous Port Of Cadaques among

Last July, a gang broke through the glass roof at the British Museum in London and stole ancient Roman gold and silver coins, brooches and rings worth

\$369,000. In all four cases, the works of arts were subsequently recovered - in Amsterdam they were found in an abandoned getaway car only hours after the break-in. Experts say it is extremely difficult to sell stolen masterpiece.

Estimates of the value of fine art theft range from some \$750 million to well into billions of dollars. The privately-funded International Foundation for Art Research in New York has recorded some 35,000 works of art stolen since

Besieged by enterprising and ill-intentioned visitors. museums with invariably tight budgets are having to spend more and more on

costly security systems. This is money they would much prefer to dedicate to restoring works and improving facilities.

"Museums around the world are forced to become like Fort Knox. This is not a suitable atmosphere in which to view art," said Biorn Springfeldt, director of Stockholm's Modern

Museum. Security at the Stockholm museum was stepped up after five Picasso paintings, a Picasso bronze sculpture. and two works by French cubist Georges Braque were stolen in November.

The thieves succeeded in sawing through the roof without triggering the alarm system or alerting a lone security guard. The museum's security budget is now running at some 10,000

crowns (\$1,250) a day. Galleries in the former Soviet Bloc cannot afford to spend such sums. But they may well be more at risk than their richer Western counterparts.

After Eastern Europe began opening its borders in 1989, smuggling Picasso paintings, valuable violins, jewellery, icons and other works of art to Western markets just a few hours' drive away flourished.

The thriving trade in stolen art plagues the Czech Republic to such an extent that last November the Culture Ministry enlisted the help of the international police organisation Interpol to stem the tide of works crossing its borders.

"At first it was pure amateurs (who were involved)... but recently it seems that well-organised gangs are stealing on the orders of other people interested in a particular piece," said Daniela Marsalkova of the ministry's Galleries and Museums De-

partment. As in the rest of Eastern Europe. few of the Czech Republic's museums have the money to pay for trained 24-hour guards or high-tech wizardry - video cameras, alarms, infra-red detection rays and

armoured windows. Whether it is state-of-theart or more primitive, no security system can guarantee absolute protection.

disability into art Laban Centre for Move-By Jill Serjeant rather than compassion. Wheelchairs whizz and ment and Dance as its first disabled dance student,

legs. A third has no legs at constraint. They become props from Yet the Candoco Company perform some of the most imaginative and stun-

ning dance works ever seen on a British stage and fiercely resist being labelled ly eject them. an exercise in public relations for the disabled. Self-pity, along with pointes and pirouettes, has no place in the Candoco repertoire even for the five

the company. "We like to think of ourseives as a regular dance company," said co-founder Celeste Dandeker, a former member of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre left paralysed after a stage accident more than 15 years ago.

able-bodied young men and

crippled dancers make up

women who with the three

"Obviously the unique make up of the company stands us apart from others but hopefully when we've been seen a bit more people will look at the work rather than who is disabled and who is not," she added.

As their name suggests,

Candoco prefer to focus on what disabled dancers are able to do rather than on their limitations and as a result often move audiences to tears of astonishment

snin about the stage, tipping backwards and sideways like an extension of the dancer's body rather than a

which the able-bodied dancers balance or take flight as they tenderly cradle the crippled occupants in their arms, or sometimes vicious-

"an extraordinary vision". But the star of the show The dance critic of the Self-pity, along with pointes and pirouettes, has no place in the Candoco repertoire even for the five able-bodied young men and women who with the three crippled dancers make up the company.

Wheelchair dancers turn

needs no wheelchair. David Toole, 29, was born without legs and has been dancing for only three years. Yet his long, powerful and expressive arms together with a haunting charisma make him a virtuoso rather than a freak.

He can skitter fast across the stage, weaving in and out and over his partners, arch and angle his torso with the same kind of control and expression displayed by able-bodied dancers performing arabesques.

A former postal worker who spent a year at the London branch of the

Financial Times said Toole's duet with able-bodied Kuldip Singh-Barmi was "astonishing both in its dynamic outlines and in its psycholo-

gical resonances. Formed three years ago, the London-based company is just starting a nationwide tour featuring new works commissioned from two of Britain's most experienced contemporary choreographers.

Siobhan Davies, choreographer for the Rambert Dance Company and English National Ballet, said that to her surprise she found it easier to work with

the disabled dancers than

the others. They have gone through physical catharsis at some point. They have had to deal in a very real sense with what has happened to their bodies and seemed to know innately how to alter the tone, weight and colour of movement," Davies said.

"For me the challenge was working with the ablebodied dancers who had not gone through that extraordinary experience."

Although resisting being categorised as a disabled group, Candoco evote about half their time to running workshops in schools and with other dancers, both professional and beginners.

Their fame has spread abroad and they have been invited to Romania 🧠 🚉 this year both to P Jorna and organise worksr aps aimed at overturning negative attitudes to the physically and mentally. handicapped. Australia is also beckoning.

The members of Candoco have no desire to become a caring-sharing role model for minority groups.

"It is a reflection on how little inter-reaction many people in mainstream life have with disabled people that we are seen as something very special," said Adam Benjamin, who formed Candoco with Dandeker.

## Study urges wider use of medicines to dilate blood vessels

# Heart failure drugs 'could save up to 30,000 lives a year'

3. Celia Hall

 D use of drugs hourt fadure could Line of 30,000 lives and · a year in direct costs Ca National Health Serexperts said vesterday. he drags, whose main ... it is to dilute blood solvers, could dramatically reduce the number of hos-: : : admissions which committee or per cent of it cost of treating heart

failure to the NHS.

An independent study of the costs of heart failure by Dr. John McMurray, a consultant cardiologist, and two health economists from the Western General Hospital. Edinburgh, says that for every 1,000 heart failure patients treated for three years there would be 50 fewer deaths and 350 fewer hospital admissions.

Dr. Philip Poole-Wilson. British Heart Foundation

professor of cardiology at the National Heart and Lung Institute. London. said good evidence of the effectiveness of Ace inhibitors had been established over the past two or three

"Here is a medical advance whose action in actively reducing mortality is rarely seen in medicine," he said. "In Britain we think that 10 to 15 per cent of the population with heart failure have these drugs. It should be 60 to 70 per

He said heart failure affects 1 per cent of the population and accounts for 5 per cent of hospitals stays. About half die within four years and those with severe heart failure are unlikely to survive for more than a

Heart failure is the condition in which heart muscle has been damaged preventing the heart from functioning properly. The result is tiredness and breathlessness. In severe cases the patient is unable to walk more than a few steps without collapsing.

Heart transplant is the offered to treatment young sufferers. Older and elderly patients are prescribed diuretics to keep down levels of water retained in the body.

The full costs of a heart

transplant are £24,000. About 570,000 people suffer from heart failure in the United Kingdom at cost of £360m annually to the NHS. This is more than 10 per cent of what the NHS spends on the whole range of heart diseases.

Heart failure patients stay a long time in hospital when admitted, on average 11-12 days. This accounts for 60 per cent of the costs of treating heart failure,

while the present drugs' bill only accounts for 7.5 per cent of the total.

Dr. Murray and his colleagues have worked out that increased use of Ace inhibitors - there are eight varieties on the market would reduce hospitalisations by 29,278 a year and save £51.2m.

Dr. Poole-Wilson said that prescribing of Ace inhibitors may be low because early trials using very high

doses on very sick people caused side effects, including low blood pressure. Some doctors were wary as a result but they now know that low doses are effective. A course of treatments costs about £160 a year for the rest of life.

The drugs would not be suitable for some patients with low blood pressure and people with certain forms of kidnev problems - Independent.

## Home male fertility test puts shy men in the pink

By Sue Pleming Reuter

GHENT, Belgium - Men will be able to test their fertility in the comfort of their own homes with the launch in Europe this menth of a male sperm test.

Called Fertilityscore, the e test was pioneered by Prok fessor Frank Comhaire, head of endocrinology at the Academic Hospital in Ghent, northwestern Belgium, in collaboration with U.S.-hased scientist, Robert Ericsson.

Infertility affects 10 to 12 per cent of all couples and medical research shows up to 50 per cent of infertility is due to problems with the man, says Prof. Comhaire.

The Ghent professor hopes his invention will spare many women from unnecessary, painful and expensive fertility tests which are usually more difficult than the male version.

'Call me a feminist, but I think women have had to take the full responsibility for infertility for far too long," Prof. Comhaire, who has been involved in infertility research for more than 25 years, told Reuters.

"The male factor in infertility has been underesti-

mated for years," he added. Men are often reluctant to have their sperm tested, largely because of the embarrassment of having to masturbate in a hospital lavatory or cramped cubicle to produce a sperm sample.

'It's much better and easier for men to do the tests at home. Also, many men simply will often not go to see a doctor if they have a problem," Prof. Comhaire said.

The test is based on a procedure devised by Dr. Ericsson to measure fertility in bulls. The human test, which was adapted by Prof. Comhaire, had to be much more sensitive because bulls produce 1,000 times more sperm cells than the human

"The test is very simple, but it was a spark of genius for Dr. Ericsson to think that this test could be adapted for the human male," Prof. Comhaire

The male fertility test works in a similar way to a female pregnancy test, with results that check against a

The test measures the amount of mobile sperm in a sample by using a blue dve, if the sample goes pink, there is enough vigorous sperm to give a couple an 87 per cent chance of conceiving within one year. In infertile men, the sample will turn deep purple. Scientifically, the test me-

asures the amount of oxygen in the sperm. The more mobile the sperm, the more oxygen they will consume. If the level of oxygen in the sperm falls below a certain level, then the test result will be pink.

Prof. Comhaire said research indicated the test was about 90 per cent accurate, but warned against couples using the results as a method of contraception.

"You have to have zero sperms to be absolutely infertile. This test may show that you are sub-fertile, but you are not sterile," said Prof. Comhaire.

Fertilityscore costs 750 Belgian francs (\$21) and each pack contains two tests. If the test result is uncertain or negative, the man should stay off alcohol

and cigarettes and repeat it after several weeks.

The test has not yet been marketed in the United States because its inventors are still waiting for approval from the authorities before launching it. However, it is being sold in several European countries and will soon be on sale in Austra-

Prof. Comhaire said he believed it was the perfect time to launch a home male fertility test because help was usually available should the sperm test be negative.

"I would never, for example, launch an AIDS test now. There is nothing you can do for AIDS... But in most couples, you will be able to find some solution to infertility," he said.

Prof. Comhaire's two sons are involved with producing the test and have turned the family home into a small factory, complete with a sterilised laboratory and an assembly line.

Under a deal with the university, some of the proceeds from the test will be funneled back into Ghent University to fund more research into fertility.

#### theory of aging Study confirms they could walk from 10 to

By Teresa Riordan Reuter

WASHINGTON — A new study provides the first direct evidence for the longstanding theory that a byproduct of breathing known as oxygen free radicals is an underlying cause of aging.

"It's a major contribution," Joe McCord, a professor of medicine at the Webb-Waring Institute of the University of Colorado and a pioneer in free-radical research, told Reuters. 'The theory has been around for 30 years, but this is the first strong support for it.

The free-radical theory of aging suggests that when oxygen is absorbed by cells during the process of respiration, harmful free radicals — molecules that are highly unstable because they have an extra electron are formed.

The normal level of antioxidants in cells is insufficient to totally counteract

By John Illman

Every so often there is a

surge of interest in the phar-

new product range. It hap-

pened with benzodiazepine

(which begat Valium and

Lib) in the sixties. It is

happening again with 5-

hydroxy-tryptamine (5-HT)

or serotonin. The serotonin

"family" includes the anti-

depressant Prozac —

acclaimed as "the wonder

drug" of the nineties. Pro-

zac has assumed a cultural

identity all of its own (even

though it is inspiring law-

suits from people alleging

Serotonin makes the ben-

bad experiences with it).

the radicals, the theory says, and some of them escape and wreak irreparable harm to cells.

Southern Methodist University (SMU) researchers genetically engineered fruit flies so that they would increase by about 30 per cent their natural production of enzymes that mop up oxygen free radicals before they can cause the body

Rajindar Sohal and William Orr, professors of biology at SMU, found that one group of the specially bred fruit flies lived longer - an average of 72 days as compared to the average life span of 55 days among normal fruit flies.

The new breed had a maximum age of 93 days while the regular breed lived no more than 71 days They also found that the

genetically engineered flies produced less of a freeradical byproduct called protein carbonyl and that

zodiazepines seem like

small beer. The benzodiaze-

pine story was largely res-

tricted to anxiety, with

er on the side. The seroto-

nin saga embraces schi-

zophrenia and addiction;

panic disorders and sexual

deviation... the stuff of mul-

ti-billion-pound phar-

maceutical roulette. It has

already produced, in addi-

tion to Prozac, big returns.

Sumatriptan relieves mig-

raine. Ondansetron inhibits

occurring chemical distri-

buted widely throughout

the body. It works as both a

neurotransmitter and a loc-

Serotonin is a naturally

nausea and vomiting.

20 per cent faster than their regular counterparts.
"In other words, the

quality of life of the flies was better," Prof. Sohal told Reuters. "They were stronger physiologically."

The researchers reported on their findings in the latest issue of the journal Science. Prof. Sohal said the find-

ings, funded by the National Institute on Aging, should shed light on the effect of oxygen free radicals in all air-breathing animals from fruit flies to humans, because they employ similar mechanisms to counteract free radicals.

The study "presents for the first time some rather definitive experiments that show that the free-radical mechanism of aging is a valid concept," said Earl Stadtman, a biochemist at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute who first showed a correlation between the age of animals

The agonists and the ecstasy

and an increased level of free-radical byproducts. Free radicals also have

been implicated in all man ner of diseases, including cancer, stroke and heart attacks. Test tube studies have

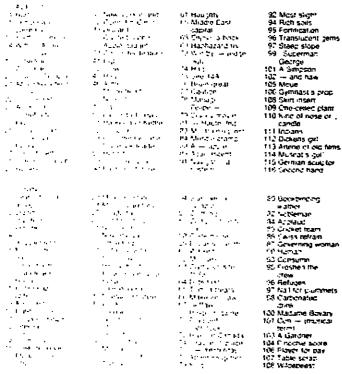
shown that antioxidant Vitamins C and E as well as Betacarotene reduce oxidation damage. Many clinical trials studying the links between these antioxidants and risks for various diseases are currently under way but thus far little such research has been pub-

The researchers bred the flies by micro-injecting into embryos two genes that produce antioxidant en-

They said the technique might one day be used to produce livestock or pets that live longer. However, they ruled out a similar approach in humans because of ethical considerations and current limitations on genetic engineering.

## **WEEKEND CROSSWORD**

AND THEY'RE OFF: By Robert Musson



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Last Week's Cryptograms

Little girl searched around ground cover for over an hour until she found a coveted four-leaf clover.
 Two pogilists, previously never successful, fought each other. Finally,

J. Is the last act ever over if the fat old diva loses her voice?
 Lasten for footsteps of footpads in all deserted streets.

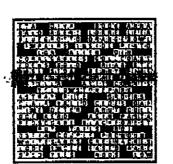
CRYPTOGRAMS

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## Migraine's wonder drug?

maceutical industry about a some muscle-relaxing pow-

By John Illman

An injectable migraine drug has transformed the life of John Bolton, a 45-year-old company secretary. His case shows why migraine has become a medical story of our time. He first tried aspirin, betablockers (drugs usually prescribed for high blood pressure), tranquillisers, acupuncture, relaxation techniques and homeopathy. He says: "I can now do the things I plan to do without fear."

The customer does not always come first in the new marketplace. Some GPs ration or will not prescribe Sumatriptan (£20 a shot). Not that everyone wants it. Needle phobia is rife. There is concern about drug side-effects and the fashion for complementary medicine. Britain's four million migraine sufferers are shopping around as never before. Some try yoga: others combine treatments incorporating a pain-killer and an antinausea agent. Previously many sufferers did not take painkillers for fear they would make themselves

Paradoxically, painkillers can actually cause headaches in people who repeatedly wake up with a headache and take a pill to prevent it getting worse or developing into a migraine. The only way to break the cycle, doctors advise, is to try preventive medicine, such as betablockers, prescribed by the doctor.

Experimentation involves more than drugs. Prevention is the best treatment of all. Many people have a migraine if they miss a meal, eat chocolate, sleep too much or too little, or undertake hard physical exercise. Women are known to be more susceptible in the week before their period. The contraceptive pill can also act as a trigger.

Cynics say, migraine underlines the unwritten attenti the less doctors know about a condition, the more drugs/therapies there are to treat it. But Lewis Carroll, who wrote his own experiences of migraine into Alice, might have welcomed today's extended marketplace. Tweedledum certainly would have done - The Guar-

al hormone. Within the brain and spinal cord it affects thermoregulation or temperature control; sleep and wakefulness; cardiovascular function; motor function: sexual behaviour: psychotic behaviour; and drug-induced hallucinatory states.

It works by latching itself on to 5-HT receptor proteins on cells in the cardiovascular system, brain and gut. How? One way to explain how a natural chemical or drug works is to think of a lock and key: the chemical or drug is the "the key", the receptor cell is the "lock". Serotonin is more like a master key which can open a number of different

chemical locks. Research is progressing on two fronts: the first is concerned with producing synthetic variants of 5-HT to block 5-HT receptors. These are called antagonists or blockers. The second is aimed at finding variants to stimulate 5-HT receptors. These are called agonists. "Targets" include:

SUIČIDE: Post-mortem studies suggest that 5-HT agonists may stop harmful, impulsive behaviour. Arsonists and people who have killed themselves by violent means have beenfound to have low 5-HT concentrations in the brain.

ADDICTIVE BE-HAVIOUR: The effect of 5-HT on impulse control may help smokers and drinkers by holding craving in check. Rats addicted to alcohol voluntarily reduced

intake after taking 5-HT agonists. The journal Psychopharmacology reported: "There may be a complex web of interconnections between primary drives (such as hunger), use of addictive drugs (such as nicotine) and stress — the commonest link between all three being patterns of activation in 5-HT path-

NAUSEA: The drug ondansetron (a blocker) inhibits nausea and vomiting. enabling doctors to prescribe powerful anti-cancer drugs which might otherwise have disabling side-. effects. Ondansetron seems to suppress 5-HT activity in the gut, preventing the brain from activating the "vomiting reflex."

MIGRAINE: Researzh suggests migraine is triggered by widening of blood vessels in the membrane covering the brain. The drug Sumatriptan (a blocker) constricts these vessels and mimicks naturally occurring 5-HT. In one study, up to 80 per cent oi patients obtained relief after Sumatriptan injections.

What about Prozac? It is a "selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor." Depression is linked to a reduction in the brain of neurotrans mitters, among them serotonin. Prozac increases serotonin levels. But the controversy over Prozac not to mention the Valium story, should preclude pre mature euphoria - The

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### SOLUTIONS

(A) QUOTATIONS 1. Pundit Nehru

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(B) INSERT THE MISSING LETTERS

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Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi (right) Wednesday meets with visiting International Labour Organisation officials headed by

Shukri Dajani (second from right) (Petra

## ILO discusses programmes for Jordan, occupied territories

By P.V. Vivekenand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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AMMAN - The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has drawn up separate assistance and cooperation programmes to be implemented in Jordan and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a senior ILO official said Wednesday.

Shukri Dajani, who is visiting Jordan at the head of a delegation from the Genevabased ILO, met with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi to discuss the Jordan programme, which involves assistance in informatics, occupational safety and health hazards.

The organisation will also help the government draft a new labour law.

The ILO will be offering training for Ministry of Labour personnel in employment practices and labour inspections and will also provide scholarships for some of them, Mr. Dajani, deputy director of the Arab Affairs Department of the ILO, told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Dajani as saying that the ILO, in cooperation with the National Committee on Women's Affairs, is planning to hold a regional seminar in September to discuss problems fac-

ing Arab working women.

Mr. Dajani, who arrived here Tuesday along with Lee Swepton, another senior ILO official, said the delegation and Mr. Ghazawi discussed Jordan-ILO relations and

cooperation in various fields. Also reviewed were the labour situation in the occupied territories and Israel's treatment of Palestinian

workers. Later in the day, the ILO team met with a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headed by Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, a member of the executive committee and head of the Economic Planning Department.

"We listened to their views on the labour situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Mr. Dajani, adding that the ILO had drawn up an "assistance programme" for the Palestinians living in the occupied

He declined to detail the nature of the assistance saying that the issue was to be discussed during a meeting on Thursday with Mr. Ghazawi. attended by representatives of workers and employees as well as the PLO.

Omar Khatib, deputy chief of the Palestinian embassy here, who attended Wednesday's talks, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the PLO had agreed to abide by ILO conventions when it takes over the Gaza Strip and Jericho under the Sept. 13 autonomy accord signed with Israel.

The PLO enjoys observer status at the ILO. PLO officials said they presented a report to the ILO on

Israeli "violations of the

labour rights of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Western human rights organisations have severely criticised Israel's treatment of Palestinian workers, who are a source of cheap labour for the Jewish state's agriculture and construction sector.

In the absence of an economic/industrial infrastructure in the occupied territories, the Palestinians there have little choice but to opt for jobs in Israel, where they are paid less than half of the average wages paid to Israelis and have no health insurance or social security benefits.

Up to 120,000 Palestinians used to work in Israel until December 1992, when the occupation authorities imposed strict measures that cut their number to less than half after a spate of violence against Israelis.

Israel imposed a blanket ban on Palestinian workers entering its territory following Friday's massacre of Muslim worshippers at Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque.

For the first time since occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, Israel has agreed to allow an ILO delegation to visit the occupied territories. The ILO hopes to make the visit in April, Mr. Dajani said.

The ILO delegation met with the PLO leadership in Tunis at the outset of its current Middle East visit, described as a fact-finding mis-

## Smugglers arrested after | House expected to endorse shooting 2 badia officers

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Two Badia patrol officers Tuesday were attacked by a group of smugglers in Al Manshieh area of Al Muwwaqqer, according to Civil Defence (CDD) and Customs Department reports.

The reports said badia patrols became suspicious of a truck that was transporting live sheep and had crossed into Jordanian territory from Saudi Arabia.

When the officers stopped the truck and searched it, they discovered cigarette cartons hidden in different parts of the

truck, the report said. A customs official told the Jordan Times that the smugglers started shooting at the officers and injured two of them. Then they set their truck on fire in an effort to destroy the cigarettes, added the offi-

The injured officers, aged 40 and 18, were rescued by the Civil Defence who received a report that gunshots were heard in that area and a fire was noticed.

When the CDD attempted to extinguish the fire, the smugglers attacked the fire engine, cutting the water hose, breaking the engine's front window and damaging other parts of the vehicle.

The smugglers also attacked the CDD ambulance that arrived to transport the injured and cut the wires of the radio transmitter before they were arrested.

The customs department official gave no details of the

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday

sent a cable of good wishes to Bulgarian President Zhelyu

Zhelev on his country's national day. He wished Mr. Zhelev

continued good health and happiness, and further progress

AMMAN (Petra) — Citizen Jadaan Faraj Wednesday was honoured by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan for assisting

police in apprehending a criminal. Lt. Gen. Udwan presented Mr. Faraj with a certificate of merit, saying that the police

always seek the cooperation of the public in ensuring the security and stability of local communities:

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordan Engineers Association (JEA)

higher council of the Arab Engineers Federation. The meeting, which is to take place in Cairo on March 30, will discuss

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Association of

Banks in Jordan (ABJ) Tuesday reelected Zuhair Khouri, the chairman of the Housing Bank, as chairman of the new ABJ board of directors. General Manager of the Arab Banking Corporation Jawad Hadid was elected as deputy chairman of

the exploitation of the Arab World's mineral resources.

board Wednesday decided to take part in the meeting of the

JEA to participate in Cairo meeting

Banking association chief reelected

King congratulates Bulgaria

and prosperity for the Bulgarian people.

Citizen receives PSD award

nationality or the number of smugglers, but said they were investigating the incident.

#### 4 die of food poisoning

Three Mafraq children and their 40-year-old mother Tuesday died of food poisoning, and a 5-year-old was listed in critical condition, according to police and hospital reports.

The mother, Rosa Ayed, and her children Jamileh (4), Jamal (3), Mohammad (1) and Joulos (5) were discovered by the children's father who had left his home in the pre-dawn and returned at about 8:00 a.m., the reports said.

the house early to get fodder for his sheep and when he returned home he found four members of his family dead. In his testimony to police, Mr. Ayed said he had no knowledge of what might have caused their death.

Aref Ayed told police he left

The victims were taken to Mafraq Military Hospital where four of them were pronounced dead on arrival and the fifth was listed in critical

A hospital official told the Jordan Times that it is possible that the family had eaten lef-tovers that had been refriger-

The official said the only survivor, Joulos, is in intensive care and is expected to survive.

As of Wednesday evening, police were unable to determine the cause of death, or the kind of food that the family might have eaten.

#### for massacre victims By a Jordan Times the Israeli authorities.

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two Jordanian doctors who were members of a medical team that visited the occupied territories earlier this week to provide medical care to the wounded in the Hebron massacre said there are sufficient doctors to treat the victims but medicines and medical equipment at Palestinian hospitals are seriously lacking.

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Ishaq Maraga said that the two doctors have reported that the Palestinian hospitals were also short of funds to cover treatment

Dr. Maraqa said that the JMA was making arrangements for medicines and medical equipment to be transported to the West Bank and was awaiting the final lists of materials needed so that he can submit a formal request to the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to work out an agreement for such a shipment with

He said that the medicines and medical equipment ready for transport came as a gift

the Ministry of Health. He said the association is in constant contact with its Jerusalem office to keep abreast of developments at hospitals there, particularly if any of the wounded would need to be

pharmaceutical companies and

Meanwhile, the fund-raising

ciation (JEA) Wednesday announced the donation of JD10,000 to the families of the dead and injured people.

The Amman Chamber of Industry also announced Wednesday that it has embarked on a large-scale campaign to raise funds for this cause from the various industrial institutions in the Kingdom.

# draft tenancy legislation

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday is expected to endorse a draft temporary law on tenancy after approving 10 articles of the draft legislation in a debate that has so far extended over-

three sessions. Legislators emphasised the importance of protecting tenants who, according to many lawmakers, constitute three-thirds of the society.

Lawmakers, who Sunday voted in favour of approving an article of the draft law which gives tenants the right to remain in their rented properties despite time limits agreed upon in the lease, continued their efforts to maintain protection that the draft law gives to tenants.

"It's our duty to see that justice is carried out to the fullest," said Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, rapporteur of the Judiciary Committee, when discussing Article 6 of

the draft law. The article states that tenants could be evicted if landlords wanted to expand their properties. But it stipulates that tenants must receive compensations and reserve their right to return when the expansion is completed.

Deputy Ali Abul Ragheb commented that the draft law has become a law on tenants who have become owners" in response to bids that he said exaggerated protection of

Some lawmakers proposed that courts determine the amount of compensation tenants should receive when they are evicted, but Minister of Justice Taher Hikmat said that such a requirement would lead to many "troublesome lawsuits." He proposed that the House endorse the article which sets the amount of compensation at 10 times the annual rent.

Deputies also approved Article 8 of the draft law which excludes non-Jordanians from the right to remain in their rented property after the end of the lease.

Article 5 of the draft legisla-

tion, which was approved after a lengthy and heated debate, stipulates that tenants can re; main in the rented properties despite time limits agreed upon in the lease.

According to Article 9 however, owners are allowed to evict tenants for expansion only if the building is 40 years old and if 12 years have elapsed since the signing of the

Other articles in the law say tenants can be evicted if it is established that the property is unsafe to use.

The draft law, which some deputies described as one of the most important and sensitive pieces of legislation, has been in effect as a temporary law since 1982. After it is approved by the House, the draft law will be referred to the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) which can amend it

and send it back to the House, The draft legislation will then be sent to His Majesty King Hussein, who can either reject it, amend it or sign it

## Doctors report medicine. equipment urgently needed

from the private pharmacies,

brought to Jordan for care.

efforts for the victims of the massacre of more than 60 Palestinians last Friday was continuing in Jordan. The Jordan Engineers Asso-

## Labour dispute ends

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour Wednesday announced the settlement of a labour dispute between the management of the Danish Dairy Products Company and company employees ... defusing a threat by the workers

A ministry statement said that the management and the workers' committee Wednesday signed a deal under which the employees will receive a pay raise of JD10 per month it their wages are less than JD150; JD7 for those above the JD150 wage; and JD5 for those with salaries ranging between JD200 and JD300.

The raise will be retroactive from the beginning of 1994. said the statement.

Under the agreement, the management will also provide health insurance covering incurred by the workers, and 50 per cent of medical cost for their families.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the only Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

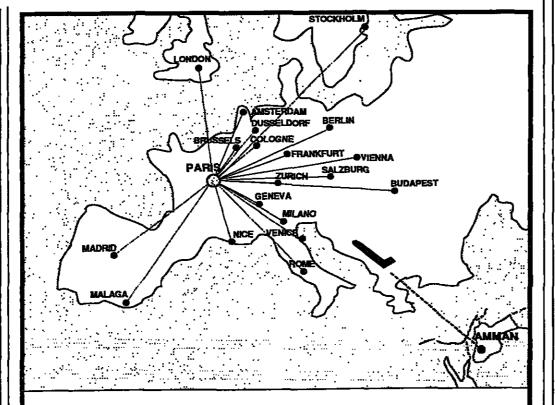
### **EXHIBITIONS**

- Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural
- Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmi entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art
- Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural
- Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre. Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- A Exhibition of paintings by Riham Ghassib at The Gallery Inter Continental Hotel. ☆ Art exhibition by artist Jalai Arigat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.). ± Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre. & Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.
- ☆ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre
- · (7:90 p.m.-midnight). ☆ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French
- Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 720902). \* "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Perzi Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in
- Jakel Ammen (Tel. 643251/2). ☆ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

\* Film entitled "The Outlaw Josey Wales" at the American Center on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. (135 minutes).

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Musical performance by Al Takht band of Arab songs on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.



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## JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordenary issue No. 4/1994



Drawing of March 2, 1994

Winning Tickets

24591

Holder of ticket No. Wins JD 40,900

02403 Holder of ticket No.

Wins JD 10,000 Holder of ticket No. 79091

Wins JD 5,000 Holder of ticket No. 81770

Wins JD 3,500 Holder of ticket No. 10935

Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. 55051 Wins JD 2,000

84755 Holder of ticket No.

Wins JD, 1,500

Holder of ticket No. 95868

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 3,000 each wins JD 300 24592 24501 24691 25591 34591 24590 24581 24491 23591 14591 Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 2,000 each wins JD 100

02402 02493 02303 01403 92403 Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 766 each wins JD 76 79090 79001 79191 70091 89091 79092 79081 79991 78091 69091 Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40

02404 02413 02503 03403 12403

81779 81760 81670 86770 71770 Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 259 each wins JD 25 10936 10945 10035 11935 20935 10934 10925 10835 19935 00935

91771 81780 81870 82770 91770

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 55052 55061 55151 56051 65051 55050 55041 55951 54051 45051 Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 108 each wins JD 19 84756 84765 84855 85755 94755 84754 84745 84655 83755 74755

Wins JD 1,000 Ticket numbers

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 50 each wins JD 5 95869 95878 95968 96868 05868 95867 95858 95768 94868 85868 99826 26601 76387 08209 87953

34529 86613 11431 82279 79719 Win .ID 100 each

Win JD 6 each: 10,000 ticket ending with 9

TICKETS ENDING WITH

4473 2395 1791 3964 Win JD 60 each 881 665 Win JD 15 each

Win JD 30 each 0548 0661 244 143 289 924 Win JD 10 each

**COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS** 

40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in

766 449 314 005

0519 6294 3250

Winners of the grand prizes in the special issue number 3/1994 of February 17, 1994

Win JD 200 each

Wim JD 3 each

Win JD 10



Ticket numbers













Next Draw takes place on March 17, 1994 First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

# **U.S.** sees China as biggest of emerging markets

stind Americaa trade and armen rights officials alatessed the twin thrusts U.S. policy towards Chian Wednesday, stressing the need to build economic and improve treatment el consection.

 Under-secretary of cominetce Jeffrey Garten told a news conference China was the world's tragest emerging market and had enormous potential for Amer-.... timis.

He spoke after lobbying to try to get US.. contracts in projects worth about \$6

Mr. Garten's visit coincides with that of John Shattuck, assistant secretary of state for human rights. He is pushing China to make the significant improvements which President Bill Clinton has demanded before renewing Beijing's most favoured nation (MFN) trading status.

Mr. Garten's comments

portance for the United States of keeping its trading ties with China.

"By any calculation China is the largest of the 10 emerging markets," he said. "Whatever sector you look at, there are huge stakes for U.S. firms. He said he had been lob-

bying on behalf of U.S. firms bidding for projects worth about \$6 billion, in sectors such as power, telecommunications and trans-

for mid-month. Passage seems assured, although it will

amount to little more than

political posturing because

Senate leaders say the measure

will not come before it again. Analysts said that credit for

the outcome belonged primari-

ly to the efforts of Senator

Robert Byrd, a West Virginia

Democrat who chairs the

powerful Senate Appropria-

floor arguing against the amendment, and tracing the

origins of the constitution back

to its English roots centuries

ago to illustrate his view the

amendment would violate

lobbying stopped short of hint-

ing to other senators that pet

projects in their states might

not be funded if they opposed

the proposal at a news confer-

Mr. Clinton argued against

"I know it's politically popu-

lar but I don't think it's good policy," he said. "It amounts to turning the whole future of

America over to 40 per cent

plus one of each house of the

congress. In an intensely parti-

san atmosphere, that's a recipe

The 40 per cent comment

referred to the controversial

heart of the proposed amend-ment, which said federal

spending could exceed income

if need be in any given year

provided both houses of Con-

gress approve that by a three-

Even more seriously in view

of some critics, three-fifths

would also have been required

to raise the national debt ceil-

ing - a step now taken by

majority vote periodically as a

matter of routine, the alterna-

tive being to default on U.S.

obligations and bring the gov-

The three-fifths requirement

means two-fifths, or 40 per

cent plus one, would have veto

Nonetheless, the balanced-

budget amendment is popular

with grass-roots voters who

feel Washington should be sub-

jected to the same painful

pocketbook discipline as ordin-

ernment to a halt.

DOWET.

for total paralysis."

fifths majority.

But Mr. Byrd said that his

basic constitutional tenets.

Mr. Byrd spent hours on the

tions Committee.

to the winning firms probably worth several times that figure.

Asked why the United States did not separate business and human rights as its main business competitors do. Mr. Garten said the whole Clinton administration was resolute on MFN and hoped it would be re-

"The policy between now and June (when the MFN decision has to be made) is

set, I am not going to specu-late on future policy," he said

In Washington, Secretary of State Warren Chrsi-topher seaid Tuesday the United States may be willing to consider future multiyear extensions of trade benefits if China makes major improvements in human

Mr. Garten said the United States and China would hold a joint committee on commerce and trade in which he wants to turn into a major forum on economic

He said that during each meeting in China he raised the complaints of American companies about 50 per cent increases in personnel and telephone costs since Jan. 1, when the exchange rate of the renmindi was unified.

"This issue will be raised by every senior U.S. official until it is resolved," he

### Vietnam to send 2,000 workers to Libya this year HANOI (AFP) -- Vietnam is to send 2,000 workers to Libya

in a bid to combat unemployment and bring in foreign currency, the official Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan said Tuesday. One hundred workers left for Libya Monday under a contract signed last year by the Vietnamese General Import and Export Company for the Construction Industry (Vinaconex), and a South Korean firm, Dong A Construction

Co. (East Asia), the paper said.
Since last year, the South Korean firm has employed hundreds of Vietnamese in Libya to work on an irrigation project worth several billion dollars. Since 1991 the Vietnamese government has operated a policy encouraging part of the country's over-plentiful workforce to go abroad to help solve the unemployment problem and boost foreign currency

### Balladur, under fire. stands firm on new wage

ARIS R . Princ Minister i dem to fanlistar Wednesday Grasion to book fown on a new made for young workers, carlo from choose and stuand the challenge conservation bandling of 1997 is tell anemployment 50° Boll, für feering revived the street was them the the haddinge to his in or the treets, deto search training conny is a testy opinion column the study newspaper Le-

Landagero sterile debates is a principle stade." he to refeeting stude union in copposition charges that the n a sub-minimum wage range for fendamental so-

need to back down in rein the by violent protests must workers and and may hattle over the prime there's a second to retreat

less will not a policies it has To referre French society course year can have a place in tu ilee redi The new wage, authorised

title a law passed by the c) c) to c donumated parliacountry stayear, allows firms to (c) the people aged to to 25 netwich 30 and 50 per cent of a minimum wave in excountry for framing. Ple minimum wage, or

"MIC stands at 5,886 frames Ya month for a 39-hour con and is adjusted to offset. 111...1

awa decrees published disand a last week putting the tion wave into torce raised an hery from trade upionists at empiscion politicians, who is one Guallist prime minisan one destroying gams that sorkers had taken decades to

in the clamour, some govsemment officials suggested it the decrees night be ad-(c) For Mr. Balladur stood on howing the measures were any financisMR "but offered se recepte all real chance to the workplace?

## U.S. Senate rejects budget amendment ate, the House has set a vote

WASHINGTON (R) The Senate narrowly rejected one of the most contentious proposals in U.S. politics Tuesday, a balanced-budget constitutional amendment rapped by President Clinton as "a recipe for total paralysis."

Ending a week-long debate, the Senate voted 63-37 in favour of the amendment, four short of the two-thirds necessary for passage.

Opponents denounced the notion of a mandatory balanced federal budget as an empty gimmick and an awful way to tamper with America's sacred governing creed, the

"We swore to uphold the constitution," said Senate majority leader George Mitchell, a Maine Democrat, "The constitution is more important than any of us. Indeed, it's more important than all of us put together." Proponents called it just the

castor-oil medicine needed to get the nation off its deficitspending binge and said afterwards that eventually they would win. This is just one loss in

getting a balanced budget amendment that will work for this country," said Utah Sena-tor Orrin Hatch, a cosponsor of the amendment, after the defeat. He predicted that eventually the country would pass a balanced budget amendment, ilthough not this year. Mr. Clinton, who did not

want presidential hands tied on spending issues, made plain Tuesday morning where he stands: "This remedy is the wrong

one," he said at a news conference. "I hope the Congress will reject it.

The amendment by Illinois Democratic Senator Paul Simon, a liberal leading a cause often identified with conservatives from Ronald Reagan on, was aimed at forcing Congress to achieve a balinced budget by 2001. Had the Senate approved it.

clear the House of Representatives and would have then needed ratification from three quarters of all state legisla-tures, or 38 of the 50, within seven years.

the measure would have had to

Despite its defeat in the Sen-

### Fading hopes of rate cuts send markets into spin

LONDON (R) — Europe's financial markets fell sharply Wednesday after a surge in German money supply and worries about U.S. inflation sparked fears that further cuts in European interest rates

would be delayed. Domestic factors went out of the window as panicky investors scrambled to sell stocks and bonds in the main European financial centres of Paris, Frankfurt and London.

At one point £12.15 billion (\$18.16 billion) had been knocked off the value of leading British companies. The French and German stock markets fell even further in percentage terms.

In France, where interest rates move closely in line with German rates, trading in MATIF bond futures was briefly halted as prices fell by more than three points.

"This market has been hell," one Paris dealer said. "We got out with no losses, but we were "I cannot believe what I'm seeing. This is just a night-

mare," said one trader in Italian bonds, watching futures prices fall by more than four points at one point. By the end of the morning, bonds had pared their losses and stock prices had stabilised, but dealers said this was an

uneasy calm as markets waited

to see where Wall Street would open.
The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading British shares found a support level at 3,200 and at 1230 GMT was down 45.1 points at

The CAC-40 index of leading French shares was down 66.80 points, or 3.06 per cent, at 2,116.32. The DAX index of 30 leading German shares was down 46.72 points at 2,020.33. Nerves were evident from

the start of the European day after a fall in U.S. Treasury bonds and equities on Tuesday because of fears that the Federal Reserve might tighten U.S. monetary policy another notch to nip inflationary pressures in the bud.

## **European Union** fixes entry terms for three nations

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union (EU) has clinched membership terms for three out of four applicant states to extend the union north heyond the Arctic circle and east to the Russian frontier.

In a hectic bout of bargaining that climaxed five days of intensive negotiations, first Sweden, then Finland and finally Austria agreed conditions on Tuesday for joining. Norway has still to settle

stria will make a major contribution to expanding Euro-pean unity," a delighted Greek European Affairs Minister Theodore Pangalos told a late night news conference after what he called the longest-ever EU ministerial meeting.

Mr. Pangalos, who chaired the talks as the current EU president, was speaking almost 24 hours after he "stopped the clock" to negotiate past an original midnight Monday deadline.

"I have seldom felt so happy after 100 hours without sleep, declared External Political Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Broek, who said the agreement angured well for the future of a free, democratic Diplomats said the rise of

extremist nationalism in Russia personified by opposition politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky had given a fresh push to the enlargement forces, which is being closely watched by the East European states eager to Although internal EU poli-tical debates often become

bogged down in self-recrimination and pessimism over issues from high unemployment to lack of influence in Bosnia, the current moves to enlargement show a more dynamic side to

There have been three previous enlargements of the European Community, which is already double its original membership of six. But the next expansion will be the first since the Maastricht treaty on European Union came into force last year.

Only the question of grant-

# ing EU fishing rights in Norwe-gian waters proved too difficult on the day for the hundreds of

officials and diplomats assembled in the smoke-filled rooms of the EU council of ministers office tower. Mr. Pangalos said the EU

had a strange capacity to wax more passionate about fish and milk than about any other sub-But he said he was confident that Norway would be able toend negotiations in time to join

along with the other candi-"Finland, Sweden and Au-Negotiations between the EU and Norway are due to resume in Brussels next Tuesday, chiefly on fish but also to formalise agreements on agriculture and taxation. Mr. Pangalos said this would

still allow a Norwegian agreement to be submitted in time to the European Parliament. which is due to approve all enlargement texts in May before it goes into recess for elections in June. The enlargement of the EU

on the target date of Jan. 1 next year depends on referenda among somewhat sceptical voters in all four candidate countries, but negotiators fresh from Tuesday's result were contemplating only success.

Austrian Foreign Minister
Alois Mock hailed the out-

come as historic and said his country's membership would strengthen the EU's social, environmental and human rights



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#### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURDSDAY MARCH 3, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: that will give added security in the days ahead. Show closest ties Swift action in obtaining in-formation that you feel exists can be the means by which you make some giant career, strides and will extend your activities in a more profitable direction. Start

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are able to find new interests that can give you added abundance at this time. Be sure to maintain a cheerful manner to all those around you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Carry through with ideas that will bring you more harmony and ideal conditions at your home. Your ability to organise is in

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Contact one who can help you get ahead in your line of endeavour. Adopt a more logical outlook on life and be practical

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Money should be upper-most on your mind today. Use practical sense in all your business dealings and you will have great success in them. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get

busy doing what you most want to do and make real headway towards personal business success. Use care in motion especially on the highway.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make long-range plans

that you are truly devoted to your chosen mate. LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo7

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ber 22) Good day to be with fascinating friends for the recrea-tion that is mutually pleasurable. Take steps to improve you health for the time ahead. SCORPIO: (October 23 to

November 21) Make constructive plans that could give you greater success in business. Do nothing that could harm your good name in any form, especially to a bigwig that can help you. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take advantage of an opportunity to advance in your career and become more osperous. Be active and cheerful in any activity which you participate in.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use your ingenuity to expand in business affect and get good results now. Strive for more harmony with family mem-bers and you will all be happy. AQUARIUS: (January 2! to February 19) A good time to make concrete plans that could bring added income in the future. Take no chances with your reputation in the eyes of others. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study your environment and make plans to improve it. Come to a better accord with fellow associates. Show that you have poise and confidence.

### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 4, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: desire in the future and then do Mercury goes direct today as the Moon in Sagittarius squares the Sun so don't try to force an issues. as you remain alert to any possi-ble opportunity coming your way. Drive safely with good

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) principles you wish to operate under in the days ahead and you have more happiness and success in any endeavour. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Morning is fine for improving the situation at home, then later put your finest talents to work. Think constructively on any pro-GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You need to employ more effort now to gain your most cherished goals. Show increased devotion to family members and they will MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Know your true position in financial affairs with associates and take steps to improve it. Be logical in your thinking on any LEO: (July 22 to August 21)
Morning is best for going after

personal aims. Show more consideration for closest ties and ease the tension at home which

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Figure out what you

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation your best to attain these aims. Use right methods to solve a propblem which has developed. -LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to be of

assistance to one whom you are very fond of. Steer clear of a group meeting today which could have problems connected. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to gain a favour from a higher-up now and advance in your career. Don't overlook an important

business matter which comes up. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A new contact can be helpful to you in gaining the support of an influential person. Come to a better understanding with mate. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make sure business matters are handled well before

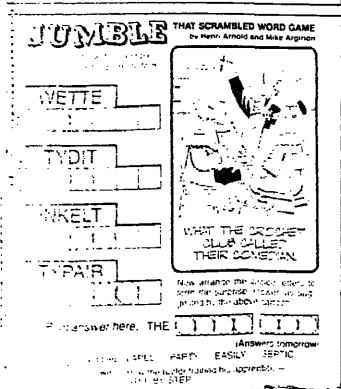
ome with mate. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Talk over your ideas with associates and gain their cooperation. Positive thinking could help you gain your aims you desire.

engaging in social activities.

Look for quiet pleasure while at

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Work is a pleasure in the morning. Later you have time to spend with associates in constructive pursuits. Be more opti-

## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen Men's Cologne GLASBERGEN Bot something that smells sweaty like Sylvester Stallone, but not sweaty like a construction worker?"



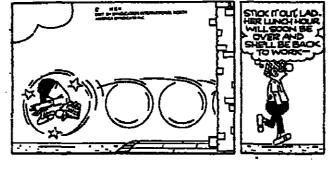
### Peanuts

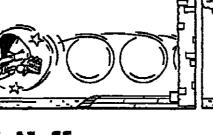


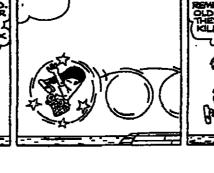




## **Andy Capp**





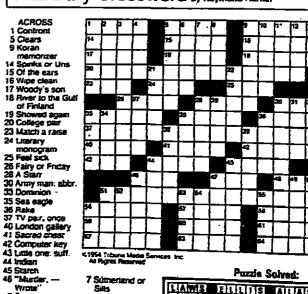


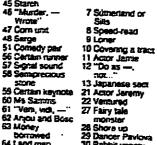


## Mutt'n'Jeff



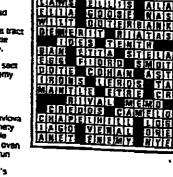
## THE Daily Crossword by Raymond ... arnel





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SPINIES & MEATING

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JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES

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Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	
	Unit 1/3/1994	Dar 2/3/1994	
Sterling Pound	1.4895	1.4870	
Dentsche Mark	1.7095	1.7103	
Swiss Franc	1.4385	1.4415	
French Franc	5.8185	5.8300**	
Japanese Yen	104.55	104.23	
European Correny Unit	1.7298	7-128144	

Jordan Times

Eurocurrency Interest Races Date: 2/3/1994					
Currency	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	3.2500	3.3125	3.5625	4.0000	
Steriling Pound	4 9375	4.9375	4.9375	5.0625	
Deutsche Mark	7572 ·	5_6875		5,2500	
Swiss Franc	4.0000	3.8750	3.8125	.3.6875	
French Franc	6.3750	6.1250	5.9375	5.7500	
Japanese Yen	2.1675	2.1250	2.1250	2.1875	

European	Currency Unit	b.450	0 6.2500	6.1200	5.9300
eterbank hid	rate (ar amagais	C. J Skibyrov	. Pollago 1,000,	100 or equivale	3L
				0/1	
Precious i	Vietals .			Date: 2/3	
Precious I	Wetals USD/Oz	3D/Gm²	Metal	Date: 2/3	JD/Gm

	Dat	be: 2/3/1994
Сиггевсу	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7006
Sterling Pound	1.0366	1.0418
Deutsche Mark	0.4075	0.4095
Swiss Franc	0.4832	0.4856
rench Franc	0.1197	0.1203

0.6703

0.3628

0.6737

*****	44744
0.0412	0.0414
44744	247744
Date	2/3/1994
Bid	Offer
1.8320	1.8480
0.040325	0.041765
0.1858	0.1867
2.3380	2.3600
0_1895	0.1905
0.2050	0.2200
1.7900	1.8060
0.1895	- 0.1905
0.2725	0.3245
1.3265	1.3750
	0.0412 Bid 1.8320 0.040325 0.1858 2.3380 0.1895 0.2050 1.7900 0.1895 0.2725

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednes-

6.6699/49

\$1.4932/42

\$376.85/377.25

day. 1.3515/25 U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.6982/92 1.9067/77 1,4290/00 34.99/03 5.7855/05 1685.6/7.1 103.25/35 8.0155/55 7.3841/91

One sterling

One ounce of gold

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks **Dutch** guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

# U.N. agency: New CFA

LIBREVILLE (AFP) — The U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (CEA) said Tuesday that the CFA franc, used in 14 African countries, might be devalued again if the 50 per cent devaluation on Jan. 11 did not boost growth.

The African franc zone "will not be safe from a new devaluation over the next few years if it is the "most realistic" option for promoting longterm macro-economic growth, a study published by the CEA Tuesday said.

Protests have broken out in several of the central and westem African countries following the halving of the CFA franc's international parity which pushed up the price of goods in most of the affected states.

Riots shook parts of the Senegalese capital Dakar two weeks ago, claiming eight

In a study on the macroeconomic effects of the CFA franc's devaluation, published during the fifth meeting of African finance ministers which opened in Libreville Tuesday, the CEA cautioned. however, that despite the "numerous studies on the subject, one cannot say with certainty if devaluation is an efficient measure or not."

The study predicted three possible scenarios for the de-

BEIJING (R) — China Tues-

day vowed to abolish poverty

by the year 2000 by lifting the

living standards of the 80 mil-

lion of its people who do not

have enough food to eat or

The ambitious pledge was made in a speech by State

Councillor Chen Junsheng to a

national conference on reduc-

ing poverty. The People's Dai-

ly carried it on its front page.

net income to more than 500

yuan (\$57) at constant 1990

prices, he said. Official figures

show the average rural resident

921 yaun (\$106) in 1993, a real

increase of 3.2 per cent ov-

Mr. Chen said over the next

ven years China aimed to lift

11 million people a year above

the poverty line. In the 1986-92

period, the annual figure aver-

infrastructure in poor areas,

providing drinking water for

the poor and their domestic

animals, making electricity

available to most poor towns

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The plan includes improving

aged 6.8 million.

of China last year earned

It means raising their annual

clothes to wear.

China vows to abolish

poverty by year 2000

velopment of the 14 affected economies over the next six

"The most realistic of the three" calculated a 50 per cent increase in annual domestic prices in the first year, a permanent five per cent increase in annual public spending, a thirty per cent increase in foreign capital flows in the first year and a stabilisation at 18 per cent in the following years.
The devaluation would pro-

voke a short-term increase in production with a growth in gross domestic product at 7.8 per cent in the first year, thanks to a 39.7 per cent boost in exports, the CEA said, confirmed by a rise in exports from Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso since January, French officials at the meeting said. However, after the first

year, the outlook will deteriorate. The CEA said, and in the long term there would be a "net slowing of growth," due mainly to inflation slowing down exports, increasing trade deficits and cutting funds available for investment and production.

"In fact, the long term model gives production figures which are almost unchanged from those that would have been seen if no devaluation had taken place," the CEA

The effect of the devaluation on the region's trade balance

and connecting remote areas

with national or regional road

Most of the 80 million live in

remote mountainous regions,

plateau areas and remote de-

serts, with few natural re-

sources and severe shortages of

drinking water and cultivable

land, which make it difficult to

produce enough food, he said.

will be of great significance. It

will mean that the rights to

subsistence of the Chinese peo-

ple, who account for one-

fourth of the world's popula-

tion, will have been secured,"

The government has decided

to increase its investment each

year in a "work for food prog-

ramme" by one billion yuan

\$115 million) and in low-cos

loans by one billion yuan (\$115

million) during the 1994-2000

Mr. Chen said millions of

rural residents have taken up

jobs in booming economic areas outside their own re-

gions, enabling them to in-

Many villas and apart-

ments furnished or unfur-

For more details call:

crease their incomes.

he said. ...

period, he said.

"The realisation of the plan

networks, he said.

was also doubtful, because of the rise in prices, the CEA

At the end of six years, "national output will become less and less competitive and imports less and less expensive," the CEA said, ending up in "a continuing degradation in the trade balance.

In total, "the direct expansionist effect of the devaluation on the whole of the economies of the franc zone will be wiped out in the long term," the study said, predicting another devaluation to follow.

CEA executive secretary, the Algerian Layashi Yaker opened the African finance ministers' meeting warning that "poverty was developing on the continent which was facing a "spiralling rise in unemployment."

After the "lost" decade of the 1980s, Africa had not started out any better in the 1990s, he said, with an average growth in output of 1.5 per cent since 1990, less than half the rate of growth of the population.

Debt problems have continued to grow, Mr. Yaker

"Why have ten years of structural adjustment not succeeded in bringing Africa out of the crisis?" Mr. Yaker asked, saying it was the "central" question for the conti-

Algeria

revenue

revises oil

down to \$8b

RABAT (R) — Algeria has

## Top central bankers may shy franc devaluation possible away from hedge fund control

LONDON (R) — The world's top central bankers are becoming increasingly concerned by the casino-like activities of huge "hedge funds," which have added extra volatility to recent slides in world financial

The Bank of England and U.S. Federal Reserve plan to take a closer look at the finan-cial exposure banks have to the hege funds, which take highly leveraged multibillion-dollar positions in financial markets. Funds such as Hungarianborn financier George Soros's

quantum fund are aggressively managed pools of private money and can have a huge impact on financial markets. But central bankers expect a softly-softly approach to emerge, with no direct controls

taken against hedge funds. "I have not heard anyone suggest direct controls," said one European central bank official. "It is extremely difficult to define what a hedge fund is and separate their financial activities from other operators in the markets." he

Instead, central bankers look set to monitor more closely how much money domestic banks are lending to the hedge funds, to ensure the banking system is not left exposed in the event of a severe financial

These are two main concerns - about domestic banks' exposure in terms of counterparty risk and credit risks, and that hedge fund activity makes financial markets more unst-

There are worries that banks, particularly in the United States, may have been seduced by the huge profits hedge funds have made in recent years as the bull market raged and allowed their lending to get out of hand, bankers

Hedge funds take massive positions in global currency. bond and stock markets in search of large and quick pro-

But this year nasty losses have emerged as bonds markets beat a rapid retreat. Rumours abound that U.S. hedge funds made losses of as much as 25 per cent in February. Soros fund management confirmed last week that it lost \$600 million on the yen's sudden rise after the deadlock in trade talks between Japan and the United States.

Concern about hedge funds is likely to figure prominently when representatives of the world's major central banks hold their next meeting in Basle, Switzerland, on March 7

The Bank of England is con-

ducting talks with clearing and merchant banks on the issue and has reportedly sent out questionnaires to gain a clearer picture of banks exposure to the hedge funds. The Federal Reserve, too, confirmed Tuesday that it is taking a closer look at bank lending to hedge funds.

But the tide against hedge funds is not universal. A spokesman for the Swiss National Bank (SNB) said the SNB had no plans to caution

Swiss banks to limit exposure. "It's not really our policy to give such recommendations to Swiss banks. We feel we have very market-orientated approach. The banks are probably in a position to estimate the risks as well as we are," a spokesman said.

Central banks could theoretically take tough measures. such as insisting that banks deduct the value of loans to hedge funds from the capital they are required to hold against bad debt.

But an informal approach is likely to emerge, with bankers relying on words of warning rather than strict controls. They are also likely to recommend that banks spread their exposure across a range of funds rather than becoming exposed to a single one, bank-

## Japan's business confidence still depressed amid signs of recovery

TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese business confidence remained at an 18-year low in February in spite of signs that the country's economic downtown may be finally coming to an end, the Bank of Japan said Tuesday.

revised down the revenue it expects from its petroleum exports this year to \$8 billion from \$9 billion, a spokesman for the state-owned Sonatrach Agency has said. The estimate is "based on an

average price of \$15 a barrel for Algerian crude. Our forecast of oil revenues for 1994 will be around \$8 billion," the spokesman for Sonatrach's communications department told Reuters by telephone. Income from petroleum ex-

ports, which represents more than 90 per cent of foreign exchange earnings, was esti-mated at about \$9 billion last have fallen.

an interview published by the Algiers daily Liberate last month "a decline of \$4 a barrel means a loss of \$2 billion. Servicing Algeria's foreign debt of \$25.7 billion cost \$9.3 billion last year.

in

667171 ext. 223

Sonatrachs managing direc-tor Abdul Hak Bouhafs said in

quarterly survey, known as the Tankan. "We have not seen either concrete evidence for a recovery -- or positive proof of the bottoming out of the deteriora-

proved marginally.

For small companies,

however, the outlook for

manufacturers in February was

worse than November,

although sentiment improved

for non-manufacturers has

ceased deteriorating," the cen-

tral bank said in a statement.

"As previously forecast, in

coming months business condi-

tions are forecast to improve."

But Bank of Japan officials

were reluctant to draw too

much optimism from the latest

tion of business sentiment,"

one said. "It remains difficult to specify the timing of a prospective economic recovery, with a battle continuing between positive and negative factors," the official said. The bank's quarterly short-

The survey's release neverterm survey of economic entertheless came on top of other prises showed that the outlook signs that Japan's worst postwar recession is finally coming for large companies had stopped declining for the first time to an end. The government said earlier since 1989 while the outlook for non-manufacturers had im-

Tuesday that unemployment fell from 2.8 per cent in December to 2.7 per cent in January, the first decline in almost two years. And on Monday, it reported that industrial output in Janu-

ary grew 0.9 per cent from December, reversing a contraction of 1.9 per cent the previous month. Other figures released the same day showed average

household spending in December rising 0.4 per cent from a year earlier, the third increase in a row.

"There is a sign that the economic outlookiong is becoming brighter," International Trade and Industry Minister Hirohsi Kumagai said

The quarterly report showed that the diffusion index for business conditions among large manufacturers was minus 56 points in February, unchanged from the previous survey in November.

The index is expected to improve to around minus 50 points when the next survey is carried out in May, the bank The diffusion index, which

measures the number of respondents with a negative outlook minus those with favourable projections, had bene expected to improve to minus 51 points when the November survey was carried out.

For large non-manufacturers, the index improved from minus 47 points to minus 46 points and is expected to reach minus 40 points in May.

The outlook for smaller companies, however, was mixed. The index for manufactuers desteriorated from minus 43 points to minus 48 points. where it is expected to remain in theh next survey.

For small manufacturers. it improved from minus 25 points to minus 24



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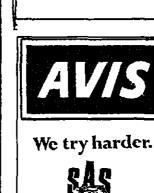
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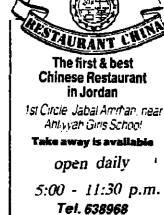


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## De Klerk welcomes Buthelezi's tentative offer on poll registration

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. De Klerk Wednesday welcomed Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's tentative offer to register for South Africa's first all-race election in April.

But Mr. De Klerk, responding to questions in parliament. said he foresaw problems with a call for international mediation that was part of Mr. Buthelezi's agreement with his main black rival African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela Tuesday,

"I am very pleased the meeting took place, though I think it was very late in coming.

"My attitude with regard to (international mediation) is that...time is of the essence. If time is of the essence I foresee some problems with the concept of mediation."

Mr. De Klerk said negotiations with right-wing black and white parties would not halt if parliament adopted pro-federal constitutional amendments Wednesday and ended its sit-

"We would be willing and able to negotiate from tomorrow in any effort to reach further agreement which might ensure all inclusiveness in the

SEOUL (R) - North and

South Korea, due to resume

talks Thursday after an acrimo-

nious four-month break.

squabbled Wednesday over the

terms for the meeting at the

cold war border to discuss the

Song Yong-Dae, Seoul's

chief delegate, cautiously wel-

comed North Korea's decision

to accept an invitation to a

meeting at Panmunjom, the

village that straddles the fron-

But he told the North that

progress over the nuclear im-

dropped preconditions that fouled earlier attempts to re-

turn to the negotiating table.

There will be progress in the working-level contacts.
(Thursday) if the Northern

side does not present earlier

to nuclear war exercises' and

the 'abandonment of Seoul's

international cooperation sys-

tem'," Mr. Song told repor-

He was referring to the

guarded message from Pyon-

gyang, delivered Tuesday.

accepting the invitation to Pan-

North Korea said it would

attend the meeting but called

for an end to South Korea's

annual military exercises with

its U.S. allies, mainly war

games codenamed Team Spirit

that are scheduled for later this

divorce itself from internation-

al efforts, led by the United

States, to persuade Pyongyang

to open suspect nuclear plants

to inspectors from the Interna-

tional Atomic Energy Agency

TBILISI (R) - An explosion

on a railway bridge has cut the only railway line linking the

former Soviet Republic of

Armenia to the rest of the

world, Georgian officials said

Wednesday.
The officials, at the Geor-

gian Interior Ministry, said it

would take three or four days

to repair the 70-member (230-

foot) bridge, some 60

strong and it damaged the

bridge very badly," one official said. "It will take at least three

or four days to restore com-

munications. It is obviously a

·A series of explosions in

Georgia have cut rail, road and

gas pipeline links between

landlocked Armenia and the

rest of the former Soviet Un-

Armenia blames ethnic

Azeris living in Georgia for the

blasts. Azerbaijan, locked in

conflict with Armenia over the

Amenian-populated enclave

of Nagorno-Karabakh, denies

Meanwhile, Moscow sent a

top general to Armenia and

Azerbaijan to secure a

Russian-mediated ceasefire

which began Tuesday in the

disputed Nagorno-Karabakh

enclave and seemed to be hold-

it is responsible.

terrorist act."

"The explosion was very

kilometres south of Tbilisi.

We are seeing more of the

Blast cuts Armenia's rail

links with other states

It also demanded that Seoul

muniom.

passe would be made only if it

North's nuclear programme.

print ahead of meeting

"I think it is possible for us in the next week or two to make some progress.

Mr. De Klerk said the April 26-28 election would take place as scheduled and warned that the government would use all the force at its disposal to prevent any disruption.

"From the government's side the security forces will be used, the law will be applied-... to ensure that the election is free and fair.

"The government will use everything at its disposal to ensure that law and order will be maintained and the elections will go ahead as planned and they will be free and fair,"

Right-wing white radicals have threatened civil war if their demands for an independent Afrikaner homeland are not heeded.

Mr. De Klerk said the government had a contingency plan to ensure that voting took place in the Bophuthatswana and Kwazulu black homelands, both members of the autonomy-seeking Freedom Alliance of white and black conservatives including In-

"I wil ensure the maintenance of law and order and will use all the facilities available to

brinkmanship which the North and South always play ahead of

talks but I think the meeting

will go ahead," said a Western

"But we should not expect

any major breakthrough, we

should simply be happy that

North and South are starting

The meeting will focus on a

proposed exchange of envoys

charged with ending the row over inspection of the North's

The two have held three

rounds of border talks to dis-

cuss the envoy exchange. But

the North broke off contacts

last November after the South

rejected its call to end military

exercises with the United

sites for any evidence that

radioactive fuel has been di-

verted to build atomic

ing despite minor violations. Karabakh officials said

Azeri forces shelled their posi-

tions overnight but a military

spokesman in Baku denied this

and said "all was quiet."
Russia's ITAR-TASS news

agency said Colonel-General

Georgy Kondratyev would

hold talks with Armenian and

Azerbaijan officials on imple-

mentation of a peace plan

mediated by Moscow's De-

fence Minister Pavel Grachev

The plan envisaged a cease-

fire, which came into effect

Tuesday, and a subsequent

withdrawal of troops to create

safety zones. A joint staff

would be deployed in the area,

consisting of officers from Rus-

sia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and

Gen. Kondratyev, deputy

defence minister, told TASS

the joint staff would consist of

250 officers, 69 of them Rus-

The territory, with a major-

Thousands or people have

been killed and dozens of

thousands forced to flee their

homes in six years of warfare in

which Karabakh Armenians

have seized big chunks of the

Azeri territory proper.

ity Armenian population, was

Marie de la califaction

on Feb. 18.

Karabakh.

the talks process again."

nuclear sites.

Koreas squabble over fine Vietnam, U.S. make good

the state to that effect, according to the threat and according to the situation as it develops.

Earlier, the government's chief democracy negotiator Roelf Meyer said on independent Radio 702 he did not think international mediation was necessary.

"International mediation, what does it mean... If it means that the parties have to get together under international mediation, I don't think there's a need for that. We are able to talk to each other."

Freedom Alliance Chairman Rowan Cronje said Tuesday night he was trying to arrange a meeting of Alliance negotiators to discuss the Mandela-Buthelezi deal. A time and venue have still to be arranged.

Negotiators pondered their next moves in South Africa after Mr. Buthelezi made a conditional last-minute offer to sign up for the country's historic first all-race elections in

The Zulu leader said after a rare meeting with Mr. Mandela Tuesday that he would consider provisionally registering his Inkatha Freedom Party but would keep open his option of

Political parties have until Friday to register and five

HANOI (R) - Vietnam and the

United States have made a

good start to their new rela-

tionship with "positive" talks

on complex financial claims

and opening diplomatic mis-

sions, sources close to the

negotiations said Wednesday.

have been positive," one source said, adding that discus-

sions on opening liaison offices

in Hanoi and Washington were

The negotiations — together

with what the U.S. State De-

Talks on both questions

start to new relationship

more days to nominate candidates for the first vote in South African history in which all

sians to bury hatred. races can cast ballots. Mr. Buthelezi and his main In his first statement since black rival, Mr. Mandela, said his release from Moscow's Lefortovo Prison, he attacked in a statement they had the "irresponsible windbags "agreed to explore with their and dishonest politicians and principals the possibility of injournalists" who, he said, had ternational mediation. twisted the truth over autumn

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini is demanding a sovereign state.

Mr. Mandela, whose ANC is almost certain to win an overall majority, said he was encouraged by his first meeting in mine months with Mr. Buthelezi.

"We have laid a solid foundation not only for further progress but for possible breakthroughs," he said. But Mr. Buthelezi, asked if

he was closer to taking part in the elections, replied: "Not at all, I am not close at all." A Democratic Party legisla-

tor said Mr. Buthelezi appeared to be playing for time and hoping the election would

Mr. Buthelezi said Wednesday the position of King Goodwill in post-apartheid South Africa had not yet been resolved and called for a separate Zulu kingdom.

partment called a "productive exchange of views" in New

York on human rights --

marked a promised start to a

new chapter in relations which

opened when the United States

scrapped a 30-year economic

embargo against Hanoi a

Senior officials ended a first

round of talks in Hanoi Tues-

day on U.S. and Vietnamese

claims to \$520 million in prop-

erty and bank accounts dating

from the end of the Vietnam

month ago.

#### liament. Armed parliament supporters broke out of encirclement in the White House on Oct. 3

who led an uprising two weeks

after the president had cast

aside the constitution and abo-

lished Russia's Soviet-era par-

and, on Mr. Rutskoi's urging, stormed the mayor's offices and Ostankino Television Cen-

Mr. Yeltsin, long estranged from his vice-president, crushed the rebellion the following day using tanks.

"In the autumn of last year, all those in the House of Radical politicians and some senior businessmen have sug-Soviets (White House) and on. the barricades fulfilled their gested Mr. Rutskoi's release could set Russia back on the civic and patriotic duty to the path to civil conflict, pointing last, defending a young par-liamentary culture, democrato May Day as a possible flashcy, the constitution," Mr. President Boris Yeltsin Rutskoi said.

"Many of them paid the highest price — their lives saving the honour and dignity of the Russian state, staving off a slide into dictatorship. They left this life victors and their names will be written into the pages of the history of our motherland for centuries," the signed statement said.

The release of Mr. Rutskoi. an air force general, was a blow to Mr. Yeltsin who had tried until the last to have it postponed.

Mr. Rutskoi took one oblique shot at Mr. Yeltsin, criticising those who "walk over the constitution of the state for the sake of their own personal DOWET.

In addressing his statement to the Duma, Mr. Rutskoi

Rutskoi urges reconciliation appeared to accept the legitimacy of the legislative body Mr. Yeltsin created to replace the old parliament.

> "I bow to the laws of my country, the will of the people's representatives," he said. Mr. Rutskoi, who was sworn in as acting president by the old parliament during the twoweek confrontation with Mr. Yeltsin, withdrew to a country house shortly after his release.

Former parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, arrested along with Mr. Rutskoi on Oct. 4 and released moments before him, has declared he is leaving politics.

But ITAR-TASS news agency said Mr. Khasbulatov was given a rousing welcome by thousands when he returned to visit his mother in his home town, Grozny, in the rebel Russian Republic of Chechnya in the north Caucasus.

Chechnya, which has un-ilaterally declared independence under its maverick Presi-dent Dzhokhar Dudayev, has suffered dire economic problems since its 1991 break with Moscow. But Gen. Dudayev has kept all opposition at bay.

Meanwhile, the 1991 Soviet coup trial has come to an ignominious end, closing the final chapter of an episode which had threatened a new cold war but ended up hastening the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Russian Supreme Court, bowing to an amnesty ordered by parliament, Tuesday dropped treason charges against the men.

TBILISI (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze won a wealth of Independent States

MOSCOW (R) - Former

Vice-President Alexander

Rutskoi, freed from jail last

week under an amnesty, de-

fended October's armed upris-

ing against Boris Yeltsin Wednesday but called on Rus-

clashes in Moscow that claimed

warned the amnestied prison-

ers Tuesday they would be

immediately rearrested if they

"Think it over," Mr. Rutskoi

said in a statement addressed

to the citizens of Russia and

the new Duma legislature,

which had amnestied him. "Do

not whip up hysteria. Hasn't

enough blood been shed for

Mr. Rutskoi made no refer-

ence to any presidential ambi-

tions. But aides have said they

expect him to run in elections

due in 1996 and the general

tone of his comments sug-

gested he sought a future

Mr. Rutskoi walked free

Saturday along with six others

national role.

tried to destabilise the situa-

tion in the country.

140 lives.

voted 121 in favour to 66 against after a tumultuous sesmentarians accused Mr. Shevardnadze of selling the coun-

Bedlam broke out after the final vote tally, with one member of parliament fainting, others breaking down in tears and one lunging at Mr. She-vardnadze with fists raised be-

The former Soviet foreign ministers, who has for months insisted that his impoverished country has no choice but to

join the CIS, sat impassively in the speaker's chair.

"Let us realise what will happen if we do not join the CIS," he said before the vote. "A country in a situation such as ours does not have the right to turn down even a small chance to survive.'

Opposition deputies argued lose too much sovereignty.

## Georgian parliament votes to join CIS

major victory as parliament in his war-torn country voted to ratify an agreement on joining the Moscow-led Common-

The vote required a simple majority to pass. Lawmakers sion in which opposition parliatry out to Russia.

fore being restrained.

that Mr. Shevardnadze's position meant that Georgia would

## Houston, Sting and Aladdin take Grammy Awards

NEW YORK (R) - Whitney Houston to Grammys: "It Will Always Love You."

An announcement on a sus-Houston and the soundtrack pension of this year's Team for her film The Bodyguard won top honours at the 36th from the Seoul Defence Minisannual Grammy Music Awards try Thursday but North Korea Tuesday in a show that mixed wants other, smaller-scale exglitter with unexpected conercises to be scrapped as well.

The North-South meeting Houston was named Best became possible after Pyon-Female Vocalist at the U.S. gyang agreed Friday in talks with the United States to allow music industry's top awards for her monster hit single I Will international inspections of Always Love You, the lead nuclear facilities, designed to allay Western fears the North

song from the film.
The song was also named Record of the Year and The is trying to develop nuclear In return, the United States committed itself to cancelling Bodyguard soundtrack album, which has sold a record-tying 11 million copies, was named Team Spirit and scheduled a Album of Year, pushing aside third round of high-level U.S.competition from Billy Joel North Korean talks later in and Sting. In sales the album is March. tied with the soundtracks for Saturday Night Fever and Dir-Six IAEA inspectors arrived in North Korea Tuesday for a ty Dancing. two-week visit to check nuclear

Sting won three awards, in-cluding Best Male Vocal and two awards for his album Ten

Summoner's Tales. A Whole New World, the theme song from the hit Walt Disney film Aladdin, written by Alan Menken and Tim Rice, was named Song of the Year, giving the sound track from the film five awards for

the evening.

Billy Joel and Neil Young. both multiple nominees, were shut out from the awards.

The evening was not without controversy, the Irish rock group U2's lead singer Bono used the banned "F" word in accepting an award for Best Alternative Album and the show cut to a commercial before Frank Sinatra could finish accepting his Grammy Living Legend Award.

In accepting the award for Zooropa, Bono said: "I'd like to give a message to the young people of America. We shall continue to abuse our position and F — up the mainstream."

The banned word was heard on the live television broadcast beamed to millions of homes but was cut out when the programme was beamed to the west coast three hours later. Bono apologised after the programme if he had offend anyone.

Sinatra choked back tears as a star-studded audience of 4,000 gave him a standing ova-

Living Legend Award was cut off when the television broadcast went to a commercial before he finished speaking. The organisers of the award said Sinatra had his own pro-

ducers for the segment and they were the ones who cut to the commercial.

Host Gary Shandling said: "Mr. Sinatra should have been allowed to finish his speech. That was a mistake. This is live television and Mr. Sinatra will cut us off in an hour."

"I just got off the phone with Lorena Bobbitt and she said 'I woudn't cut off Frank Sinatra'," he quipped, referring to the woman recently acquitted of malicious wounding for cutting off her husband's penis.

Billy Joel interrupted his performance of the hit song The River Of Dreams. looked at his watch and said. "valuable advertising time going by, valuable advertising time going by. Dollars, dollars, dollars," he smiled, then resumed playing.

Houston opened the awards ceremony at the art deco Radio City Music Hall by singing I will Always Love You, which dominated the charts, radio airwaves and music video

Then she was handed the award by country music star Dolly Parton, who wrote the song in 1974 with what she said was a broken heart until the rovalties rolled in.

Rhythm and blues singer Toni Braxton was named Best New Artist and Best Female RB Vocialist beating out Houston. Dwight Yoakum won Best Country Male Vocal for Ain't That Lonely Yet.

Natalie Cole won the Jazz Vocalist Award, two years after she won major awards for her Unforgettable album. Rock singer Meat Loaf made a comeback by winning Best Rock Vocal for I'd Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That).

The best classical album went to Pierre Boulez for conducting the Chicago Symphony in Bartok's The Wooden Prince. Singer Tony Bennett posted the major upset of the night when his album Steppin' Out beat our Barbra Streisand's Back To Broadway for the Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance Awad.

I don't know what Barbra's gonna say about this," Bennett said with a laugh while accept-

who was fired by the Metropolitan Opera after a recent temper tantrum, did not show up to accept the Best Opera Recording Award for Handel: Semele, which she shared with several other soloists.



Whitney Houston cheers over her Grammy Award Tuesday. Her soundtrack to the movie The Bodyguard, with the single I Will Always Love You, won awards for Record Of The Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance (AFP photo)



Sting holds one of the three Grammy Awards he won at the Annual Grammy Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York

## 1 dead, 4 hurt in Australia crime office blast

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) --A policeman was killed and five people injured Wednesday when a bomb was passed through security checks and tore through the Adelaide office of Australia's National

Crime Authority (NCA).
One of the injured men, who police said was an NCA lawyer in his mid-30s, was in serious condition after undergoing Police said the bomb

through the 12th floor office of the NCA, a controversial agency that fights organised crime. Glass and debris rained into the street as the blast shook the central business district of Adelaide, the normally quiet capital of South Australia, shortly after 9 a.m. local time. Four others were treated in hospital and released after

including a broken wrist and smoke inhalation from a fire set off by the bomb.
"This is a wicked and evil thing that has been done," Prime Minister Paul Keating told reporters. "This is the

worst kind of thing that I could

treatment for various injuries,

imagine.
"This is something which is completely out of the character of this country. This is some-thing that this community shouldn't tolerate and as a government we won't be."

Police said they had no warning of the blast and as far as was known no threats had been made. The dead policeman was

identified as Detective Sergeant Geoffrey Leigh Bowen, 36, a father of two young children. "We have no idea what sort

of a device it was. Suffice it to say it was certainly a bomb," a police spokesman said. NCA officials said that after

the blast they had boosted security measures at all NCA offices in Australia. Police said a task force of 40 detectives had been assigned to the case. Police would not comment

on the how the bomb was delivered or the nature of the device, although a spokesman said the NCA's scanners were designed to detect ferrous

#### Deneuve appointed number 2 on Cannes jury

PARIS (R) — French actress Catherine Deneuve has been appointed vice-president of the jury at this year's Cannes Film Festival, organisers said Tues-day. It will be the first time the 50-year-old Deneuve, a symbol of French cinema after a career spanning more than three decades, will sit on the jury for the May 12-23 festival that will be headed this year by U.S. actor-director Clint Eastwood. "We believe she deserves an extra jewel in her crown. The reason for choosing her is the particular admiration we French have for this great lady," a spokeswoman for the

#### Bobbit cases inspires male chastity belt

ROME (R) — Rome sculptor Angelo Camerino, who made headlines four years ago by exhibiting sculptures of female chastity belts, is cashing in on a male version in the wake of the John and Lorena Bobbitt case. Mr. Camerino Tuesday said he had sold three male chastity belts to: an American living in Rome. The beits are stainless steel and lined with leather. "He asked me for the belts, which he wanted to send to some friends in New York,2 the sculptor said. "He told me they would wear them at night so that their wives can't do a Mrs. Bobbitt." Lorena Bobbitt, freed Monday from a mental hospital, was acquitted by reason of insanity on Jan. 21 on a charge of slashing off her sleeping husband's penis. Mr. Camerino said the male belts cost 2.5 million lire (\$1,500) each but he had sold the client the third for a cut price of two million (\$1,200).

#### Spielberg: Time for German Nazi guilt is over

FRANKFURT (R) - Holocaust film Schindler's List was getting its German premierc Tuesday amid debate on who Oskar Schindler's deeds went unrecognised for so long here and why others did not act as he did to save Jewish lives. Buf U.S. director-producer Steven (Spielberg refused to see his film as a reminder of guilt for today's Germans or as especially poignant in view of a cist attacks, many of them fatal. Spielberg, many of whose older relatives were killed in the holocaust, said a small viòlent fringe should not be seen as representing Germans as a whole, or even as real Nazis, "I'm not sure the thugs who call themselves neo-Nazis really know what their beliefs are," he told a news conference. "It just gives them a platform for hatred." "I sould feel it is time in Germany for this generation to teach their children without showing guilt, and knowing that education is the way to stop another holo-caust happening." Spieleberg's film tells the story of Schindler. a Nazi war profiteer who saved about 1,200 Jews from the gas chambers. The American producer insisted on holding the German premiere in Frankfurt as a tribute to his subject, who spent the last years of his life here, and died in poverty in

#### Altman's fashion satire to start shooting in Paris

PARIS (R) - When the cur-

tain goes up on Paris ready-to-wear shows, Hollywood's master ironist Robert Altman will have his camera poised for his next satirical swipe - this time at the cut-throat, shallow fashion crowd. Paris salons are buzzing with gossip about Pret-A-Porter (ready-to-wear), the star-studded, Nashville-style portrait of the fashion industry, which director Altman is filming during and around the Paris autumn winter collections that open Friday. Although he swears he comes to praise fashion, not bury it, Pret-A Porter is expected to be just as biting as the The Player, Altman's send-up of greedy Hollywood power brokers. Yet models, designers and fashion journalists have been clamouring for a role, even if it is at their own expense. The film, an ambition of Altman's for nearly 10 years, will be shot in pseudo-documentary style. mixing actors with real figures from the fashion world. Film ing begins at designer Sonia Rykiel's show Sunday. A tall man with piercing eyes and a goatee that make him resemble Wild Bill Hickok, Altman has been snooping around Paris collections for the last year.

هدا مند الأصل

SACRAMENTO, California (R) -Patrick Ewing scored 28 points and pulled down a season-high 21 rebounds as the New York Knicks snapped a four-game losing streak with a 100-88 victory over the Sacramento Kings Tuesday.

Greg Anthony scored 18 points and John Starks added 16 for New York, which salvaged the finale of a four-game road trip and ended their longest regular-season slide since Pat Riley became head coach to start the 1991-92 season.

Mitch Richmond scored 29 points and Lionel Simmons added 18 for Sacramento.

In Houston, rookie Sam Cassell scored all of his careerhigh 16 points in a stretch bridging the third and fourth quarters as the Houston Rockets defeated Orlando, 97-85, and snapped the Magic's panchise-record seven-game winning streak.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 26 points and blocked six shots, outplaying Magic centre Shaquille O'Neal, who had 19 points and 13 rebounds. O'Neal made just 3-of-12 free throws as Orlando was

14-of-27 from the line. In Atlanta, Danny Manning and Stacey Augmon scored 21 points apiece and the Atlanta Hawks survived the secondworst scoring fourth quarter in NBA history, holding on for a 102-99 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Atlanta was outscored 30-8 in the fourth quarter and nearly blew a 94-69 lead. Chuck Person's three-poin-

ter with 30 seconds left pulled Minnesota within 100-99 but Manning scored a basket with eight seconds left.

In Seattle, Vincent Askew had seven of his career-high 17 points in a key fourth quarter run and Kendall Gill scored 21 to power the Seattle Supersonics to a 122-96 triumph over the Charlotte Hornets. The Sonics have won three

straight and four of their last

five games after a three-game losing streak. Seattle improved to a league-best 40-14. Hersey Hawkins had 26

points and Frank Brickowski netted 20 for the Hornets, who suffered their sixth straight loss and 14 of their last 15.

At New Jersey, Chris Morris scored 23 points and led a third-quarter charge that lifted the New Jersey Nets to a 108-98 victory over the Detroit

Morris sank six three-pointers, breaking a club record he shared with five players.

Derrick Coleman had 25 points, 15 rebounds and seven blocks in little more than three quarters for the Nets, who have won eight of their last 10

At Golden State, Latrell Sprewell scored nine of his 27 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Golden Warriors to a 114-109 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Golden State rallied from a 14-point deficit entering the fourth quarter to end a seasonhigh three-game winning

Rookie Chris Webber, celebrating his 21st birthday, collected 26 points and 18 rebounds for Golden State.

In Indiana, Rik Smits scored 24 points and Reggie Miller added 20 to lift the Indiana Pacers to a 106-94 trimph over the Portland Trail Blazers.

The victory was the 13th in 15 games for Indiana and snapped Portland's season-high sixgame win streak.

In Milwaukee, Glen Rice celebrated the signing of a new contract by scoring 25 points as the Miami Heat defeated the Milwaukee Bucks, 110-102, for their fifth straight victory.

In Philadelphia, Previs Ellison had 25 points and 12 rebound and Tom Gugliotta added 19 points and 12 rebounds to help the Washington Bullets snap a six-game losing streak with a 109-103 triumph over the Philadelphia 76ers.

## Kankkunen takes lead in Portuguese Rally

LOUSADA, Portugal (R) --Finnish world champion Jahu Kankkunen shot back into the lead of the Portuguese Rally Wednesday when Frenchman Francois Delecours was forced to stop for repairs after engine problems with his Ford Escort.

Delecours was forced to stop for lengthy repairs dur-ing Wednesday's second special stage at Lousada in northern Portugal after his engine overheated and Ford team officials said he might

have to retire. Kankkunnen, in a Toyota Celica, briefly took the lead from Delecours Tuesday's first leg of the four-day rally, but the Frenchman finished four seconds ahead of him.

Although Kankkunen snatched the lead again from Delecours Wednesday, the Finn remains closely followed by Italian Massimo Biaision in another Ford escort only one second behind.

Delecours's repair stop cost him at least 20 minutes and commentators said that even if he stayed in the rallyhe had lost virtually all chance of winning it.

## Courier upset, Agassi advances in California

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) - Unseeded Australian Pattick Rafter upset secondseeded and defending champion Jim Courier of the United States 7-6 (7-2) 6-2 in the second round of the \$1,720,000 Champions Cup Tuesday,

Top-seeded Pete Sampras of the United States played nearly prefect and beat Spain's Emilio Sanchez 6-1 6-1 in 62 minutes in his second-round match at the 56-player, hard court tournament, where the top eight seeded players receive first-round byes.

Unseeded Andre Agassi of the United States, fresh from taking the title in Scottsdale, Arizona, eliminated compatriot Richey Reneberg 6-3 6-3.

Seventh-seeded Todd Martin of the United States used his powerful first serve, which delivered eight aces and 10 service winners, to hold off Marcos Ondruska of South Africa 6-0 4-6 6-1 in one hour, 55 minutes in a second-round

First-round winners included tenth-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, eleventhseeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland, 13th-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, and fifteenth-seeded American Malivai Washington. Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden was to play his first match late Wednesday. Rafter, 49 in the world,

belted 10 aces on his first serve and gave the third-ranked Courier trouble with his highkicking second serve through the match.

Rafter and Courier each

held serve in the first set to force a tiebreak. The Australian took a 3-2 lead and held it by hitting a service winner for 4-2 and an ace for 5-2, and then winning the last two points on errors from Courier's normally reliable foreband.

Rafter, who defeated Sampras last summer, broke Courier for 3-1 in the second setn and then again in the final game of the match, as Courier had difficulty finding the mark with his service returns.

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Gabriela Sabatini and Šteffi

Graf won in straight sets on a

windy day to advance Tuesday

to the third round of the Virgi-

Sabatini, the third seed, has

not won a tournament in 21

months. She overcame a critic-

al overrule at 5-3, 40-30 before

completing a 6-4, 6-2 victory

over Italian qualifier Elena

wind because of my heavy topspin ball," said Sabatini, a

three-time winner in this

"Sometimes it goes any-

Graf, the world's no. 1 play-

7-5 decision over Marianne

where and it is hard to return

"I usually play better in the

nia Slims of Florida.

Savoldi.

those shots."

Courier, who won titles here in 1993 and 1991 and maintains a home near the tournament, said that he never played his way into the match.

"I played a couple bad points in the tiebreaker and the first set was gone, and Pat played a tight second set," Courier said. "He served really well and I couldn't get my return going. I was prepared to play, but I was unable to work my way into the match."

Sampras, first in the world. served seven aces and repeatedly handcuffed the 46thranked Sanchez with his second serve on the way to a routine victory over the claycourt specialist.

Werdel. It was the first time

Graf has dropped more than

four games in any set this year.

where there's no wind to here

is very different," said Graf,

who has won all three tourna-

ments she's entered this year

and 11 of her last 12. "The last

three tournaments I'm playing

No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez

Vicario will play her first

match Wednesday against Lisa

Raymond. Raymond rallied

from 1-5 to defeat Laura

The only seeded player to

lose was no. 11 Yayuk Basuki,

beaten 6-3, 6-1 by Elena Likhovtseva. Likhovtseva will

Sabatini is ranked fifth in the

world. She reached three finals

in 1993 but her last tournament

victory came in the 1992 Italian

very good, very solid."

Golarsa 7-5, 6-1.

next play Graf.

"Coming from Indian Wells

## China says Olympic spat shows 'colonial prejudice'

BEIJING (R) - The official People's Daily said Wednesday a row in a Winter Olympic speed-skating event last week showed colonial prejudice and the West's refusal to recognise

China's new strength. In an editorial entitled," Can we be stopped?', the newspaper said China was sick of being treated like a secondclass member of the international community and would prove to the world it deserved respect.

"Don't believe us? Wait and see," it vowed.

The dispute broke out in the women's 3,000-metre relay at the Lillehammer games afer Chinese silver medallist Zhang

Yanmei claimed U.S. skater Cathy Turner had stolen victory by grabbing her leg and throwing her off balance. China filed an official pro-

test and Zhang expressed her rage by storming off the medal podium, ripping the silver medal from her neck and huriing her bouquet to the ground. The people's Daily said the incident was a clear indication

that "some countries" were unable to stomach the fact that China was now a competitor. "Certain foreigners have deep prejudices against Chinese, that is something we

frequently feel," the editorial "And this certainly carries aspects of a colonialist men-

"The people all saw a foreign athlete use her arm to impede Chinese athlete Zhang Yanmei and the fact that the judgement on this was unfair."

The People's Daily said foreigners were determined to prevent China from showing its new power not only in sporting events ut also in other areas.

"In the opinion of some, China is not even worth mentioning but is poor, backward adn uncivilised. Chinese people are weak, shabby, dirtyfaced peasants.

"In the big international family, Chinese people can only obey..."

The People's Daily said China was changing fast and getting stronger by the day. "Only a strong, stable and prosperous China can win the respect of

"We are not begging those

"The Chinese people are

py, or it might make you un-happy, but none of you can

Chicago June 17 after a glitter-

ing ceremony involving such

showbiz stars as singer Liza

Minelli. It ends in Los Angeles

Humphrey Taylor, president

improving but it would not

surprise me if when the World

Cup has started many Amer-

icans are not particularly in-

"It doesn't fit in with televi-

July 17.

terested.

the world.

who hold prejudices against China to change their opinions ... (but) will use our strength to prove that China is strong and the Chinese race is admirable. The facts will bear us out."

now on the road to prosperity, moving towards a glorious 21st century," it said.
"This might make you hap-

er and two-time defending champion, won her 18th consecutive match of the year without dropping a set a 6-0,

## Coca-Cola official sponsor for Saudi World Cup team

Sabatini, Graf advance to

3rd round of Florida Slims

The agreement for Coca-Cola to become the official sponsor for the Saudi FA team participating in the World Cup 1994 has been signed in Riyadh. Prince Sultan Bin Fahd Abdul Aziz and Abdullah Al Maalami, general manager of Coca-Cola Saudi Arabia, signed the

agreement. On the agreement, Al Cola company is the official sponsor for the World Cup since 1978 and with the participation of the Saudi team in

the World Cup '94, the agreement is natural. Also, the connection between the most popular sport in the world and the most popular soft drink in the world is a clear and easy one to make."

Al Maalami, concluded, "We hope that our sponsorship of the Saudi national team participating in the World Cup '94 will help support their preparations in representing our country in this worldwide championship.'

#### World Cup? Now what sport is that? The World Cup kicks off in seem striking.

ica's enthusiasm for soccer is growing ahead of the World Cup but most people still know little about it and care even

That at least is the conclusion of an opinion poll conducted in early February and published this week which brought to light the following nuggets:

25 per cent of Americans, a higher proportion of men than women, know the World

know that the 24-nation tournament will be played in the United States.

finals are in 1994.

- 20 per cent of Americans

- 18 per cent know the

terested in attending matches.

error margin of three per cent with figures for figures for age. sex, race, education and numweighed into the findings. The pollsters, who surveyed

nationwide across the United thing about it."

said they had heard of the World Cup. Far fewer knew what it was,

be played in the United States. Only 11 per cent then knew

In soccer mad Brazil, regular of Louis Harris and Associates victims of mass World Cup Inc. who carried out the poll fever, such a questioner would was downbeat. meet disbelief. "I was not really surprised," he said. "At least things are

In the United States, blank faces are more likely.
"This isn't Brazil," said World Cup 1994 Press Officer

After all, asking questions in

Italy before the 1990 finals

along the lines of "have you

ever heard of an event called

the World Cup?" might have

indicated insanity.

Jim Trecker, putting his case across succinctly. I think that, in spite of the way they have chosen to present these numbers, they are very, very positive," he added pointing out that 20 per cent of

America was an enormous number of people. "That's the beauty of numbers. You can do what you like with them," added Trecker, pointing out that soccer in

the 250 million inhabitants of

America had made huge leaps awareness in few years. "Fifty million people know about this thing, all our tickets are sold. What more can we do?" he asked, adding that World Cup organisers felt the poll understated the case.

"It is all moving along very nicely. We are very comfortable with where we are and so are (world body) FIFA."

Address to:

sion advertising at all," he added. "Soccer doesn't stop for 45 minutes."

LOST Indian passport. issued to Hakam Singh S./Gurdial Singh, (No. 470583) has been lost in the Wadi Haddad area. Finders please contact the Indian **Embassy** or the nearest police

station.

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	O A D T	PHILADELI THELMA AND Shows: 12,30, 3, 8,30,	LOUISE	ROUND TO HEA Shows: 12:30, 3:00,	AVEN	CONCORD '1' FILOFAX Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' PASSENGER Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30  Arabic play "Hi America" at 8:30	Opening Soon A political comedy	Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15	Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents  Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)  daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays

Christie sets European indoor 60m record KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) Olympic and world 100 metre champion Linford Christie of Britain ran 60

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n Park

art

new Eurpean indoor record Fuesday. . Christie shaved three hundreds of a second off the mark he had previously shared with three other sprinters.

**GOREN BRIDGE** 

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 Pass 1 4 Pass

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South ±KQ107643 ∇Q975 \$Void ±93

moment, you need do no more than bid three spades, leaving the parturable with the maximum amount of room for exploration. No, that's not a weak bid—with nothing but long spades, you would either pass two no trump or bid four spades.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South 410542 7J52 ◊J **4AQJ**102 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—You certianly want to be in game, but because of your unbal-The way to find out is to use the Stayman Convention. Bid two duhs, which asks partner to show a

four-card major. Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold: "For once everything work-

Kenyan Paul Ereng ran the fastest indoor time of the year

second.

46.19 seconds.

penalties by passing.

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as

being able to retreat to chibs.

Q.6-East-West vulnerable, as

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 Pass 1 NT Pass 2 Pass ?

A.—When you bold a working ace and king and partner has reversed, you have a very useful hand. In the

modern style, the reverse is a one-round force and the only sign-off

here is two no trump. Since partner

is marked with five diamonds, we

would take an encouraging prefer-

What do you bid now?

ence to three diamonds.

outh you hold: 762 VK105 0832 4A985

WITH OMAR SHARIF

©1983 Tribune Media Services, Inc. ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

**◆AKQ82** ♥A72 **♦AQ105 ♣**7 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East yon hold: •A52 ∇J532 \KJ52 •A7 1 2 2 Pass Pass

What action do you take? A .- Two dismonds weefully un What do you bid now?

A.—This one is right out of the textbooks. You have a balanced, derstates the value of your hand and a jump to three diamonds shows a more distributional holdminimum opening bid with only three-card support for partner's suit and stoppers in the unbid suits. ing. The correct way to describe this powerhouse is to reopen the auction with a double. That's for takeout, but partner is allowed to convert to

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 # Pass 1 # Pass
2 NT Pass 7 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

A.—Reverse the spade and heart holdings and we would probably raise to two clubs. Here, however, we would opt for one spade, both for its preemptive value which makes it more difficult for the opponents to enter the auction and because, if partner has a good hand and spade fit, even game is possible. The hand should play well if partner raises and we do have the sufety factor of being able to retreat to clubs. What do you bid now?

A.—This hand could deliver anywhere from 10 to 13 tricks, depending on partner's holding. For the

enced shape the had could play in better in spades, should partner have four cards or more in the suit.

ed out fine from the start," said Christie who beat Canadian Bruny Surin into second place by two hundreds of a

in the 800 metres in one minute

- 62 per cent are not in-

The harris poll claimed an

ber of adults per household 1,252 adults by telephone

Staets, concluded that interest in the world's most popular sport was increasing but "most people still know almost no-Sixty per cent of those polled

The last poll in October 1993 found 21 per cent knew what sport was involved and just 13 per cent replied that it would

the finals were in 1994. For a event, the results may

FOR RENT IN SHMEISANI Two adjacent fully furnished ground-floor apartments for rent. Both are centrally heated with well-kept garden and tele-

phone. 1. One/two bedroom apart., 100 sq.m. Tel. 665804, 668464 2. One bedroom apart. 65 sq.m. Tel. 680131. Long and short term rents are accepted.

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The U.S. Embassy in Amman has a vacancy for a Cultural Affairs Assistant in the American Center to

implement cultural programs. Applicants must have a university degree in liberal arts, education or a relevant field; must have fluent English and Arabic. Must have two years experience and a good working knowledge of the Jordanian political, economic, social, artistic and educational structure. Administrative ability to carry out detailed cultural programs, drafting and word processing required. Designing publications and/or desk top publishing experience desirable.

VACANCY

### UNRWA HEADQUARTERS VACANCIES

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East requires at its Headquarters Branch in Amman: SECRETARIES (Grades 07-11) in its Headquarters departments of Education, Relief and Social Services, Health and Administration at the Wadi Seer offices. As more vacancies will arise in 1994, UNRWA will periodically hold suitability tests for candidates. Those who pass such a test may be invited for interview.

REQUIREMENTS: Full secondary education, completion of a post secondary secretarial course of at least one year's duration; good to excellent typing and word processing skills, ability to operate PC applications; at least 3 to 9 years' experience in secretarial work; fluency in English and Arabic. For senior positions (grades 10-11) more senior experience and excellent knowledge of the professional aspects of work are required, preferably gained at work in an

international organisation. Applications which reach UNRWA HQ (Amman) before March 10, 1994 will be screened for test and interview in early March 1994; others will be screened for later tests and interviews. Those who successfully pass an interview, may receive either an offer of employment or be rostered for future consideration.

Address to: The Coordinator

UNRWA Headquarters Branch P.O.Box 484 — AMMAN, Jordan Fax No. 826177 or by hand to UNRWA HQ (Amman), Biader Wadi UNRWA welcomes applications equally from men and women. All things being equal, priority will be given to fully qualified registered Palestinians, internal before external candidates. Also candidates

Qualified applicants should submit an application (available at Embassy gate) to the Personnel Officer prior to March 17, 1994.

with a handicap which does not mitigate against the performance of the duties required are equally considered.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Sudan steps up blasphemy campaign

GENEVA (AP) — Sudan stepped up charges of biasphemy against a U.N. human rights investigator Wednesday. In a speech to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Sudanese Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shiddo said parts of a report by Gaspar Biro were "satanic" and represented a "vicious attack against the Islamic faith," master-minded by the United States. Strained by weeks of veiled threats and intimidation, Mr. Biro said he stood by his conclusions that provisions in Sudan's criminal code on the death penalty. floggings and amputations, based on Islamic law, violated international conventions to which Sudan is party. Some U.N. diolomats say the campaign against Mr. Biro, a young Hungarian lawyer, is even worse than Iran's witch bunt of British author Salman Rushdie because it is directed against a U.N.-appointed investigator.

#### Sudan bombs villages — aid workers

NAIROBI (R) — A Sudanese government aircraft dropped a string of bombs on rebel-held villages in the south of the country, killing a 12-year-old girl, United Nations workers said Wednesday. An Antonov aircraft dropped eight bombs in and around the key Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) held village of Nimule on the frontier with Uganda on Tuesday, the officials said. The girl was killed in the air raid, the first against the village since 1990. The Antonov also dropped 10 bombs around a refugee camp in Aswa, north of Nimule. Three people were seriously injured but the full extent of casualties was not immediately known, aid

#### U.N. sends food to hungry Afghans

KABUL (AP) - The United Nations on Wednesday sent 90 tonnes of badly needed food on the road to Kabul, its first attempt to deliver supplies since a major battle erupted two months ago. Meanwhile, renewed fighting broke out Wednesday as President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces traded tank and rocket fire with its rivals in the crumbling capital. A convoy of six food trucks left neighbouring Pakistan on Wednesday and is scheduled to arrive in Kabul on Thursday morning, according to aid groups. The president's forces control most of the city, but renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar holds the outskirts and has imposed a blockade on the main highway leading

#### Police dig up bodies from British garden

into Kabul. (see page 2)

GLOUCESTER, England (R) - Three bodies, all of them female, have been unearthed in the garden of a man charged with killing his 16-year-old daughter, police said Wednesday. They began digging in the garden of the terraced house in the central English city of Gloucester last Thursday. On Sunday they unearthed remains believed to be of Heather West, who disappeared seven years ago when she was 16. Frederick West, 52, a builder who according to press reports has at least 10 children, was charged with her murder and is in custody. Two more bodies were found on Tuesday and identified on Wednesday as those of a woman in her late 20s and a girl in her late teens. Detective Superintendent John Bennett, who is heading a team of 30 police, said digging would continue until they were satisfied there were no more bodies in the garden.

#### Religious link seen to Kuwait cinema bomb

KUWAIT (R) - A bomb explosion at a Kuwaiti cinema may have been a religious protest against the showing of films during the Holy Month of Ramadan, the manager was quoted on Wednesday as saying. "The blast was probably a religious warning due to the Holy Month of Ramadan," Yousef Al Halabi, manager of the Kuwait National Cinema Company, which owns all cinema halls in Kuwait, was quoted as saying by the English-language Arab Times. Last year we received a threat at the same time but it was not carried out," he was quoted as saying. The blast on Monday at the Grenada Cinema in the Khaitan area wounded a security guard, Mr. Halabi said. The Interior Ministry said two people were injured in the blast.

### Attacks on Copts raise fears

ASSIYUT (AP) - Three Christians were shot or stabbed to death in separate incidents in the Assiyut area, raising fears of renewed sectarian violence in the Muslim militant stronghold. Police said Wednesday two Christians, one a 19-year-old student, were fatally shot in Dairut, 40 kilometres north of Assiyat. Suspected extremist gunmen in the same town wounded Ahmad Mohammad Nagi, a Muslim, Tuesday night for collaborating with police, witnesses said. And in Assiyut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo, the body of a Christian hairdresser, Nabil Berti Zachary, was found in his apartment Wednesday. He had been stabbed to death a day earlier.

### Palestinian centre disputes army version of killing

By Michael Jansen Special to the Jordan Times

LIMASSOL — The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC), based in East Jerusalem, disputes the Israeli army's official figure of 30 Palestinians killed in the mosque at Hebron last

Dr. Jan Abu Shakra, director of the centre, in Cyprus for a Middle East Council of Churches Conference on Palestine, told this correspondent that the PHRIC had 'confirmed that at least 50" Palestinians had been shot down either "in the mosque or its courtvard." The centre has compiled a list of the names of the 50 mosque fata-

Dr. Abu Shakra also revealed for the first time that field workers from the PHRIC had interviewed an eyewitness to the massacre who insisted that a "second person had been involved." confirming accounts given by others in the mosque that

This witness, she said, "described the second gunman' and said he had been dressed in "civilian clothes."

According to Dr. Abu Shakra, this gunman "go away before (the settler held responsible for the slaughter. Dr. Baruch Goldstein) was

The centre's initial esti-

Palestinian worshippers had been killed in the sanctuary and more than 300 injured. Its field staff, she said, has had great difficulty compiling a complete list because of the curfew imposed by Israel.

Some Palestinians wounded within the mosque compound - the Cave of the Patriarchs and the countyard - testified that they had been shot by the Israeli soldiers on duty at the site. confirming a report given to the Israeli and international media by Alon Ben David. Israel television's military correspondent, who said that Israeli troops had fired on Palestinians when the troops saw an Israeli in army uniform, i.e. Goldstein, being attacked by Palestinian worshippers who were trying to defend themselves against

The PHRIC also said that eight Palestinians were killed Friday after the mosque massacre - two in Hebron outside Al Ahli Hospital, one in Bethlehem, three in Gaza, one in Jerusalem and one in Nablus. This figure contradicts the Israeli army figure of five killed — two in Heb-

ron and three in Gaza. The Centre reported that five Palestinians were killed Union and then Russia for Saturday by the Israeli army, eight years. If convicted, they three on Sunday and two on could face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

## Serbs cautiously greet **Muslim-Croat agreement**

SARAJEVO (Agencies) --Bosnian Serbs gave a cautious endorsement on Wednesday to an agreement by their Muslim and Croat civil war foes to unite and seek a loose confederation with Croatia.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, welcomed the U.S. sponsored pact but warned: "If it helps them to put pressure on Serbs and to gain more territory from them, we are against it.

Bosnia's Muslim Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croat negotiators struck a deal on Tuesday as a ceasefire between their warring forces con-tinued to hold in central

While diplomats cautioned there was still a long way to go before the 23-month civil war was over, it boosted hopes of peace after the imposition of a separate ceasefire in Sarajevo and Serb agreement to allow an airlift of humanitarian aid through the Muslim-held airport at Tuzia.

The developments followed a move to centre stage by Russia and the United States in diplomatic efforts to end the fighting which have so far been spearheaded by the United Nations and the European Union. Mr. Karadzic, speaking in Moscow, which has swung its support openly behind its Bosnian Serb Slav brethren, voiced alarm at what he saw as U.S. attempts to supplant the

United Nations in peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) —

Secretary of State Warren

Christopher urged the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel Tuesday to

quickly resume their peace

negotiations and said the Un-

ited States would assume "an

Delaying implementation of

the Declaration of Principles

the two parties signed last September at the White House

will maintain a vacuum that

will be filled by extremists from both sides," Mr. Christ-

Hebron lead to the triumph of

violent extremism," he said of

the Feb. 25 massacre of more

than 40 Muslims by a militant

Testifying in support of the

administration's fiscal 1995

budget request before the

House Appropriations sub-

committee on Foreign Opera-

tions, Mr. Christopher pointed

out that the budget seeks

\$5,200 million to support the

Middle East peace process, of

which \$5,100 million will go to

Egypt and Israel. The funds

are designed "to build on last

year's historic breakthrough

are committed to seeing the enemies of peace fail," Mr.

Christopher told the sub-com-

mittee. "We've moved quickly

to try to avoid the breakdown

"As an administration we

for peace," he said.

of these talks."

"We certainly should not let

opher warned.

Israeli settler.

active role" in the talks.

"I do not think that one country should monopolise (this process)," he told repor-

The United States pressed the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) into threatening air strikes this month if the Serbs did not neutralise their siege guns

U.S. aircraft, enforcing a U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia, shot down four Serb warplanes which bombed Muslim targets in central Bosnia on Monday in the West's first military intervention in the conflict.

around Sarajevo.

Washington hopes the Muslim-Croat accord will increase pressure on the Serbs to reach an overall settlement.

Despite the peace concessions, Bosnian Serbs have intensified attacks on Muslim regions and denied passage for a relief convoy, U.N. officials said.

Bosnian Serb artillery continue to hammer Magiaj, a Muslim enclave in northern Bosnia, where 19,000 refugees have been under siege for most of the past year.
Serbs denied permission for

travel there Wednesday, said Bill Aikman, the U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo. U.N. officials reported anti-

a humanitarian aid convoy to

tank rounds landed near Sarajevo's downtown Jewish

active U.S. role in peace talks

Chairman Yasser Arafat have

accepted President Clinton's

invitation to move the Israeli-

PLO talks to Washington,

D.C., as soon as possible. Mr.

Christopher praised both the

Israeli and PLO leaders. "I do

think the parties will return to

Washington to renew the dis-

cussions," he said, noting he

had talked recently by tele-

the parties here in Washington

when the negotiations resume,

helping them to find a negoti-

ated outcome and then to be-

secretary said. "The active role

we contemplate would be one

where we would act as an

intermediary, offering ideas,

suggesting solutions, helping

the parties move over the last

Israel and the PLO probably

have resolved 95 per cent of

the issues that were opened by their Declaration of Principles,

Mr. Christopher said, adding

"the last five per cent some-

times is the hardest five per

Negotiators from Syria,

Lebanon and Jordan, who

were conducting bilateral talks

with the Israelis in Washington

left for home over the weekend

even though they were sche-

duled to complete their current

ment simply was not propitious

for continuing negotiations,"

"They felt that the environ-

itation.

"We will work actively with

phone with both.

n imple

few issues.

Christopher pledges more

cemetery Wednesday morning. but there was no word on who fired them.

There also were reports of a stepped-up offensive against Bihac in Bosnian's northwest corner, where Serbs support a small Muslim faction that has declared autonomy from the Sarajevo government.

Theoffensives contraststarkly to a truce that has held for three weeks in Serb-besieged Sarajevo, and to Tuesday's agreement by Mr. Karadzic to allow the reopening of an airport at Tuzla, northern Bosnia, for U.N. aid flights.

U.N. special envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg cut short a visit to Italy Wednesday to return to Geneva for immediate talks with European Union mediator Lord Owen on prospects for a peace deal in

He told reporters he was encouraged by the Muslim-. Croat agreement to form a federation in the republic and by the Bosnian Serb decision to allow Tuzia airport to open. These are both develop-

ments that could be important for future negotiations for a peace agreement," Mr. Stoltenberg told a news conference after meeting Pope John Paul and Italian Foregn Minister Beniamino Andreatta.

"This should provide for an atmosphere that could give re-

The negotiations, if they had

continued, would have gotten

caught up in the emotion of the

Arab governments have made

it clear to him that their depar-

ture was "a temporary pause,

and not a retreat from the

negotiations. So I would ex-

pect them to be back when the

Palestinians are ready to re-sume negotiations," he said.

ress" is being made on the

other bilateral tracks," Mr.

Christopher said if the Palesti-

nians and Israeli could agree

Declaration of Principles.

bring about a resumption of

the PLO-Israeli negotiations,

the secretary emphasised that

"Palestinians must feel secure,

and we believe that Israel has

taken important steps in this

direction by acting to contain

the Israeli extremists;" he

pointed to measures

announced by the Israeli gov-

ernment that create "impor-

tant precedents and should

lead to increased security for

"But the Palestinians need

more than that," Mr. Christ-

opher said. "They need to see

that they can achieve a diffe-

rent future. They need to see

that realities are changing on

the ground. That can only be

achieved through the imple-

mentation of the Israeli-PLO

the Palestinians.

Outlining what is needed to

While slow but steady prog-

The secretary said the other

## Lebanese held in attack on Brooklyn Bridge van

NEW YORK (AP) - Police arrested a Lebanese man Wednesday in connection with a bloody attack on a van fuil of lewish students on the Brooklyn Bridge, a police official

The unidentified suspect had not been formally charged, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. But he said police believe the man was the armed motorist who fired on the van Tuesday morning, wounding four students, one fatally.

The official said the Lebanese national was arrested early Wednesday morning in Brooklyn, and a car was recovered. Police also were questioning another man who might have helped plan the shooting or been otherwise involved, he added.

The official declined to comment further.

One victim, Aaron Halbertam, 20, was declared brain

dead Wednesday.

Halberstam "meets the clinical criteria for brain dead. that means that legally he is dead," said Dr. Allen Hirschfeld. "But we are continuing life support as a result of the family's wishes.'

Halberstam was in the van carrying young Hasidic men from a hospital visit Tuesday when a gunman repeatedly fired at them as they entered

the Brooklyn Bridge. Using two semi-automatic pistols, the gunman pursued the van half the length of the bridge, firing at least nine bulbefore driving away. At one of those points, he blew out his own window.

The gunfire left another rabbinical student criticially wounded.

St. Vincent's Hospital said Nachum Sosonkin, 18, who underwent surgery for a head shot that entered below his right ear, was unlikely to survive. Two others survived with lesser injuries.

The shooting sent city officials scrambling to calm fears that the incident was related to Middle East tensions. The officials said Tuesday there was "no piece of information, hard evidence" linking the incident to the mosque massacre in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

last Friday.

But "obviously that's something you can't exclude, and the speculation is there," he

The white van had not been marked, but its occupants had the black hats and sidecuris typical of Hasidic Jews.

Rabbi Shmuel Butman, a Lubavitcher leader, drew his own conclusions. "It seems to us this was an

act of terrorism," he said. The Brooklyn Bridge was closed for hours after he shooting. Security was tightened at sensitive locations.

The attack occurred as hundreds of Lubavitchers travelled from Brooklyn to Manhattan's eye, ear and throat hospital. where their grand rabbi, Menachem Schneerson, underwent cataract surgery.

#### less at three separate points Clinton appeals to Palestinians

(Continued from page 1) against settlers in the aftermath of the mosque attack. The arrival of Dr. Shaath to Washington does not mean the negotiations will open right away, said administration sources, who insisted on anonymity. Mr. Arafat wants to convey to Mr. Christopher first what he thinks should be taken up in the negotiations.

Mr. Christopher has talked to Mr. Arafat several times on the telephone since the mosque attack and has been assured that in the long run, at least, the PLO wants to keep negotiating. (see page 10)
Israeli and PLO officials ear-

tarting Israel-PLO talks. Mr.

lier Wednesday criticised President Clinton's response to the crisis triggered by the Hebron massacre, saying the Americans should play a more active, coordinated role in resRabin complained that a lack of coordination between the United States and Russia, cosponsors of the Mideast peace process, could complicate efforts to revive the suspended negotiations. "Whenever there's no cooperation in the real meaning

between the two co-sponsors,

there's a possibility of an attempt to exploit it by some of the partners for the negotiations." Mr. Rabin told a foreign press association luncheon. Mr. Rabin noted that Igor Ivanov. Russia's deputy foreign minister, was arriving from Tunis and that without U.S.-Russian coordination "it will add to the difficulties to resume the talks...

Mr. Ivanov, who met with Mr. Arafat, immediately endorsed the idea of international protection for Palestinians in the occupied areas.

### Government defends RJ

(Continued from page 1)

Following the sale, the airline opted to lease aircraft. which will become RJ property at the expiry of the 12-year

lease period. Mr. Halasa said the airline had suffered a loss of JD 143 million since its establishment in 1963, but the main losses were incurred as a result of the devaluation of the dinar in 1988/89 and 1990-91 Gulf crisis. It has spent JD 46 million

servicing its debts. Furthermore, he said, the JD 20 million capital was not compatible with the size of the airline's operations and did not allow it to raise funds on easy

Mr. Halasa put the total assets of the airline at JD 534 million. The airline has a fleet of 16 planes - four Airbus-310s, three Airbus-320s, five TriStars, two Boeing 727s and three Boeing 707s - and is expected to take delivery of another Airbus-320 in June.

The carrier employs 5,250 people, 260 of them non-Jordanian, Mr. Halasa said, noting that the jobs that the airline offers are very important for Jordan. In addition, he said, RJ also makes use of many other sectors of the national economy and any hasty decision on its future would have a chain impact on these

RI has several lucrative routes to the Far East and the bulk of its passenger traffic originates in Europe and the U.S. Its net operational profit in 1993 was JD 2 million.

Mr. Halasa noted that a goverament-appointed committee was supervising a study by a foreign consultancy firm, KPMG Peat of London, on the best mechanism to privatise the airline. The study is expected to be completed by next

The minister said that reducing the debt burden of the airline was essential before privatisation. He said the government, which lists the outstanding lease payments on RJ air-

ueous, nau une responsibility to bail out the airline.

The government-appointed committee, in addition to supervising the KPMG Peat study, is also considering various other aspects of privatising the airline such as equity structure, potential foreign capital investment, time-tables

for the process, etc. A study conducted by an international consultant recommended in 1992 that the airline be privatised in two phases: raising the capital of the airline and the government and local creditors of the airline given equity in proportion to the debts, and inviting foreign investors in the second phase when the first-phase equity bolders could sell their holdings under a plan which will ensure a controlling interest remaining in Jordanian

The minister's report was presented in response to a motion signed by 16 deputies for a general discussion" on the airline's status. Some deputies who were not

party to the motion said they

failed to find the logic in debating the issue while the government was already implementing a plan to address the problems of the airline. Wednesday's debate in-cluded a tug-of-war between

deputies who favoured an immediate floor discussion on the minister's report and those who wanted experts to study it before a full debate. Islamist deputies are traditionally at odds with the airline

over the serving of alcohol on board and Western-style clothing of cabin crews, including female hostesses, among other Airline executives argue that

parliamentarians should first familiarise themselves with the basics of operating an airline and national carrier in all its general dimensions before passing judgement on its viability "Without such familiarisa-

tion, it will be like a blind man judging the size of an elephant by its trunk," commented a semior executive.



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### Welsh unhappy with Charles at

CARDIFF (R) - More than

start of tour

half of Welsh people are unhappy with Prince Charles, titular head of their principality, an opinion poll showed Tuesday. It was published as Prince Charles, 45-year-old heir to the British throne, began a tour of Wales hoping to win back the loyalty of his future subjects. A British Broadcasting Corporation pollissued on the national day of Wales' patron saint St David showed most Weish people considered Prince Charles, who carries the title Prince of Wales, had represented them badly. It said 52 per cent of people questioned were unhappy with his performance as ceremonial head of the principality, with only 40 per cent satisfied. Eight per cent were "don't knows." Prince Charles' trip to the Welsh capital Cardiff opens a season of celebrations to mark 25 veats since he was sworn in as Prince of Wales by his mother Queen Elizabeth in a lavish ceremony at Caernarfon Castle in the north of the principality. Royal officials hope the tour will polish an image battered by the break-up with his glamorous wife Princess Diana. Prince Charles, hoping to return to centre-state and quash doubts over his future sparked by rumours of an affair with an army wife, plans to visit all parts of Wales before hosting three days of festivities in Caemarfon in July to mark his

#### Solzhenitsyn bids farewell to vermonters

CAVENDISH, Vermont (AFP) — Exiled Russian writer Álexander Solzhenitsyn made a rare public appearance to bid farewell to townspeople in the rural community he has lived since 1976 ahead of his return to Russia. "Exile is always difficult, and yet I could not imagine a better place to live and wait and wait and wait for my return home than Cavendish, Vermont," he told a town meeting Monday in only his third appearance at a public event in the town. The Nobel Prize-winning author, whose critique of the Soviet system led to his expulsion after being charged with treason in 1974, said he would return to Russia with his wife Natalya but that his sons would remain in Vermont.

#### Bokassa's son ordered to pay child support

CHAMBERY, France (AFP) A son of former Central African Republic Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa was ordered jailed for a year by a court here for not paying child support, judicial sources said? Tuesday. An arrest warrant was issued for Georges Bokassa. 44, who lives in one of his father's chateaux at Mezy-Sur-Seine, in the Paris area. The court, sitting here on Feb. 21, heard a complaint from his ex-wife, Evelyne Durieux, that Georges Bokassa, appointed defence minister by his father in 1977, had failed to pay support for the couple's three children, aged 13, 17 and 18. Mr. Bokassa, who did not appear at the hearing, said his only income was from French social security. The ex-emperor's son, who was expelled from Central Africa in 1978, will be jailed if he does not appear in court to contest the case.

TOKYO (R) - The Japanese may eat poisonous blowfish and many other weird and wonderful things but they draw the line at mice with their rice. A Communist politician has done the cause of market opening and internationalisation no good at all by claiming Japanese millers recently found dead mice and cockroaches in a pioneering shipment of imported That rice. These things don't become public because people tend to panic, but it's happening all over Japan," said Ynko Takasaki, a member of the upper house of parliament. Apart from mice and cockroaches, she showed a Reuters reporter what she said were bird bones, rubber bands, strings, cigarette butts, pebbles and chalk found in Thai rice distributed to grain milling factories

#### There's mice in the rice, says Japan politician

longest chattle Columbia last Jew is hoping for jest out sale to a break the recor indian police a <sup>Pakistani</sup> age<sup>,</sup> ZEM DECHI 1 diesied sit suspi our pake-tanes, ac ang act of terror and and indian were and indian were and indian were and indian were and indian in the control of the control and an Indian, and and an indian, and dock of reflections and M. Berkersers and M. Kaushi aspects were transfered were transfered. Aspetts were travers for local hada hima hima the deputed which is the deputed when the desputed which is the desputed when the desputed w

#### He said Israeli Prime Minis-Mr. Christopher explained. Declaration of Principles. KGB set aside \$2.7 million for CIA officer 'spy' — prosecutors

round Wednesday.

ALEXANDRÍA (AP) — Payoffs totaling \$2.7 million, Swiss accounts and the promise of a summer cottage in Russia were Aldrich Ames' alleged rewards for double espionage, government prosecutors say.

Details of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer's alleged working arrangement with his Russian masters were laid out in a letter prosecutors say investigators discovered at the Ames' home and other evidence introduced Tuesday at a bail hearing for Ames and his Colombian-born wife, Maria del Rosario Casas

U.S. Magistrate Barry R. Poretz ruled there was sufficient evidence for a grand jury to pursue the espionage case. Mr. Poretz ordered the Ameses held without bond, rejecting attorney's assurances

that the couple would not flee the country. He said Mr. Ames, if freed, would pose a danger to the United States because he possessed valuable intelligence information. The Ameses are charged with conspiracy to commit espionage. They are accused of selling secrets to the Soviet

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Wednesday it would take months to determine what, if any, damage Mr. Ames did to the national security. "I think it's substantial," he

said.

The purported letter from the KGB introduced at Tuesday's hearing begins "Dear friend," and states that Mr. Ames' "balance sheet" showed \$2.,705,00 had been appropriated to him as of May 1, 1989. "As of that date, Mr. Ames had received \$1.9 million of the total, according to the accounting statement, which also indicated some funds had

been used to buy bonds. One way the Russians showed their appreciation was by sending him photos of a piece of riverfront property where he could build a "dacha" or summer home, the government said. The photos were presented as evidence. along with a note telling Mr. Ames the land "now belongs

to you forever." At the hearing, assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Hulkower

portrayed Mrs. Ames as "very

supportive" of her husband's

alleged spying, even to the point of urging him to be more imaginative in his dealings with

the KGB, the Russian intelli-

"Mrs. Ames knew she was riding on a Russian gravy train, and she jumped on it with both

Virginia and in his office.

Ames' office that were unrelated to his current counternarcotics work was a description of methods the Russians employ to foil U.S. efforts to track Russian nuclear submarines," Mr. Wiser said, In addition to the financial

The letter indicated that Mr.

That official met with Mr. Ames in Italy and furnished him with topsecret documents for the CIA. At one point "Gimotorboat" returned to his homeland promising to meet again with Mr. Ames.

feet," said Mr. Hulkower. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Leslie Wiser told of incriminating documents found in the Ameses' home in suburban

Among materials in Mr.

statement, Mr. Wiser said, FBI agents found at the Ames house a nine-page 1989 letter containing a list of instructions from the KGB.

ty of an Eastern European internal security official who was cooperating with the CIA and went by the code name "Gtmotorboat," Mr. Wiser

Ames had disclosed the identi-

craft as part of Jordan's foreign